



Readerfeedback

"I'm planning on going to school this summer," said Sgt. Toni Valentine, 557th Medical Company, on summer vacation plans. See page 2 for more.



Sharing love and trust

Baumholder care givers hone their skills for community youths. See page 13.



Fleetfeet

DoDDS-Europe athletes give their all at track and field championships. See page 23.

Herald Union



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Serving the military communities of the U.S. Army Garrison Hessen

June 5, 2008

Berlin Airlift

People remember as Wiesbaden gears up for 60th anniversary

Editor's note: This is the second of a three-part series on the Berlin Airlift. Visit the U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden home page at www.wiesbaden.army.mil and click on the Berlin Airlift logo (top right) for more information, links and photos about the upcoming open house and other events commemorating the 60th anniversary of the "greatest humanitarian airlift in history."

By Karl Weisel

U.S. Army Garrison Hessen
Wiesbaden Public Affairs
Office

A personal connection for a DoDDS teacher

For the parents of Wiesbaden High School teacher Christine Taylor, the airlift was simply another part

of surviving the lean years during and after World War II.

Her father, a former Polish soldier who escaped from German capture only to be retaken and transported to Berlin to work as forced labor, and her mother who endured life in the devastated city as a teen and young adult described to her while growing up how the Berlin Blockade was the final straw that convinced them to leave the German city and to seek refuge in the United States.

"My mother, who will turn 84 this year, told me she was at a performance of 'Madame

See Berlin Airlift on page 5

Mercedes Wild and the 'Candy Bomber' — page 6



Photo by Karl Weisel

Dancing to celebrate Asian Pacific Heritage Month

Members of the U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden staff join the Island Dancers in celebrating Asian Pacific Heritage Month at the Wiesbaden Dining Facility May 28. Guest speaker Lt. Col. Maria P. Eoff discussed this year's theme, "Leadership, diversity, harmony — gateway to success." See page 8 for the story.

Child care providers need certification

By Alice Verberne
Installation Management
Command-Europe Marketing

The dream of many working parents — that their young sons and daughters are cared for by a known and trusted person — is also a goal of the Army Child

At Europe-wide conference

and Youth Services Family Child Care program.

FCC ensures providers who care for children in government housing are offering safe, healthy and quality services comparable to that found in Army Child Development Centers.

Any person who lives in base housing or in leased property and cares for another person's child or children for more than 10 hours per week must be certified by CYS.

See Child care on page 3

Delegates take AFAP issues to the top

By Bill Roche
U.S. Army Europe
Public Affairs Office

Delegates representing Army communities across Europe came together at the Army in Europe and Installation Management Command-Europe

Army Family Action Plan conference in Weinheim May 12-16. They gathered to let senior leaders know what issues the Army family would most like resolved.

The 59 delegates examined 57 concerns forwarded from

community conferences. The subjects touched perhaps every area of Army life, including child care, education, medical and dental treatment, youth programs, transportation, wounded and single Soldier

See AFAP on page 4



Photo courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

A C-82 is unloaded at Wiesbaden Airfield before items are reloaded onto C-54s and transported to Berlin.

Feedback: What are your summer vacation plans?



Keri Meade
Smith Elementary School,
Baumholder

"Just hanging out in Germany and Europe. I will be going to Edelweiss (Garmisch) and Belgium just to hang out. My son will be working at the Edelweiss (resort) this summer."



Carroll Sisk
Wiesbaden Directorate of
Human Resources

"I'm going back to London in July. I'm looking at going to Austria in June. I'm also going to Switzerland in July and Italy in August to do some volksmarching. When I'm not traveling, I will participate in volksmarching on the weekends."



Julia Tollinchi
Emergency Placement
Care, Baumholder

"Go to Bastal Sea to camp and spend time with friends."



Sgt. Marguerite Warren
557th Medical Company,
Wiesbaden

"I plan to spend the summer catching up on family time. I'm also planning to go to EuroDisney, Spain and Paris."



Manny Melendez
Security and Intelligence,
Baumholder

"I plan to take a trip to Puerto Rico to see my family and spend some quality time with my family."



Letters to the editor

Praise for prom support

I would like to express my sincere appreciation of two staff members at the Wiesbaden Fitness Center, James Mitchell and Ray Rivera. My daughter is a student at Ramstein High School. On May 17 she had a track meet in Wiesbaden and then needed to get ready for the Ramstein prom which was being held on a Rhein River cruise. We discovered late in the day the shower facilities at the school had no outlets in them. This is a huge crisis for girls when getting ready for prom and wanting to blow dry and curl hair. Someone recommended we try your facility, so we headed over with three girls to get ready. The girls had just gotten into the shower when we heard the announcement

that the gym was closing in 30 minutes. That was not near enough time to get three girls ready. I explained the situation to James Mitchell and Ray Rivera. They were extremely kind and said we could stay longer to get the girls ready. We ended up keeping them there 30 minutes after they were supposed to leave. As we were leaving we saw another track member coming to shower for prom. Instead of just leaving, they allowed this young man to take a quick shower. I don't know what time James and Ray finally left the gym that evening. I know it sounds like a small thing, but it really had a huge impact. This is the only prom these kids will attend that is on a Rhein River cruise. I cannot express how much we appreciate James and Ray being so kind so they

wouldn't miss this event. We will never forget their kindness.

Leah McCracken
Via an ICE comment

Berlin Airlift coverage

I just wanted to tell you how much I enjoyed all of the articles you wrote in the *Herald Union* on the upcoming Berlin Airlift event. I enjoyed reading your personal reflection and shared the pilot story with several people in our German and American communities. I am about to send it to a retired pilot of that era who served with me in my first Army Reserve unit back in the States. I think it's a great series — thanks for running these stories, enlightening us and generating interest as the event approaches.

Christine Jones
Wiesbaden

Retiree corner

Finance office to review military retiree accounts

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service is reviewing all military retiree accounts affected by Section 1452(j) of Title 10 of the U.S. Code, commonly referred to as "Paid-up Survivor Benefit Plan."

Under the law, reductions in retired pay for the Survivor Benefit Plan will be terminated effective Oct. 1, 2008, for eligible retirees. The law applies

to retired members who are 70 years old and have paid SBP or Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan premiums for at least 360 months (30 years).

Retirees who are at least 70 years old and have paid at least 360 months of premiums on Oct. 1, 2008, will have their monthly premiums terminated. The change will be reflected in the November 2008 pay statement.

If a retiree does not meet the eligibility criteria on Oct. 1, 2008, the premiums will stop when the retiree has met both criteria: reached age 70 and paid SBP premiums for 360 months.

Eligible retirees will be notified by mail regarding the status of their account and premium payment count. (*Courtesy of James Woods, retirement services officer*)

Managing your child's Internet use

As parents, you have an obligation to ensure your children are engaged in safe behavior. To stay involved in their Internet lives:

- ☛ Keep the computer in a public place in the house. Periodically check on what your child is doing. Discuss the kinds of Internet activities they enjoy.
- ☛ Be up front with your child

that you will periodically investigate the files on the computer, the browser history files and your child's public online activities.

- ☛ Search your child's name online, look at his or her profiles and postings on teen community sites and review web pages or blogs.
- ☛ Tell your child you may

review his or her private communications activities if you have reason to believe you will find unsafe or irresponsible behavior.

- ☛ Watch for secretive behavior as you near the computer such as rapidly switching screens.
- Help keep them safe — on and off line.

Herald Union masthead

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News flash

Baumholder Commissary

Congratulations to the staff of the Baumholder Commissary. The store was one of five honored by the Defense Commissary Agency as the best of the best at the 2008 DeCA Conference and Training Event in Richmond, Va., May 20. The Baumholder Commissary won the Dan Daniel Award for Best Large Commissary Overseas. (*DeCA Corporate Communications*)

Dental deferments

The Medical Protection System is no longer assigning dental deferments to Soldiers with a Dental Readiness Classification of 3. In line with ongoing efforts to improve medical readiness, Soldiers who are DRC3 or who require urgent or emergency dental treatment (such as oral infections, root canals, advanced periodontitis, chronic pain, etc.) will no longer be deferred and must receive dental care in order to be reported as fully mission ready. The criteria for the Class 3 dental criteria readiness can be found in DODI 6025.19 enclosure, Jan. 3, 2006. Leaders at all levels are encouraged to ensure their unit has a MedProS point of contact to monitor the status of compliance and to ensure Soldiers are sent to the dental clinic for corrective action. Visit www.mods.army.mil or call mil 371-2940 for more information. (*Europe Regional Medical Command Public Affairs Office*)

Civilian training opportunities

The Civilian Human Resource Agency Europe, Human Resource Development Division, offers professional development and training opportunities. Courses are open to Department of the Army civilians, local nationals and military members. There is no charge for courses. Upcoming classes include Planning, Programming, Budget Execution System July 28 to Aug. 8 and Installation Logistic Management Course Aug. 18-29 in Seckenheim. Visit <http://cpolrhp.belvoir.army.mil/eur/index.htm> and click on "Training and Development" and then "HRDD Courses in Europe" for more information about upcoming classes.

Occupational health tip

Lift with your legs — they are designed to provide a mechanical advantage to the body. The back places the body at a mechanical disadvantage. Also ensure the weight of your backpack does not exceed 15 percent of your weight. Exceeding this increases your risk of back injury.

AAFES salutes military spouses

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service is holding a Patriot Family Salutes the Military Spouse Calendar Contest through July 28. Entrants are invited to write an essay of 300 words or less explaining what the nominee has done to support the military community during a deployment. Nominees must be AAFES shoppers. The 12 winners will receive a \$500 AAFES shopping spree and have their essays published, along with their photos, in a Military Spouse calendar to be available in November. Visit www.aafes.com for details. (*AAFES Corporate Communications*)



New IMCOM-Europe commander

Diane Devens (left) accepts responsibility of the Installation Management Command-Europe from Russell Hall (right) in a ceremony on Heidelberg's Campbell Barracks May 29. These are "two very talented civilians who have worked hard, who have made huge contributions to readiness," said Maj. Gen. John A. Macdonald (center), IMCOM deputy commander.

Photo by Tom Saunders

Child care

Continued from page 1

The Army recently launched an amnesty initiative that allows providers who are not certified to sign up for training that will be required service-wide by the end of June — and to eliminate unauthorized care.

The initiative is a limited-time offer, and unauthorized providers who do not take advantage of the amnesty will have to cease care immediately after being identified.

Certification — governed by Army Regulation 608-10 — ensures Family Child Care providers meet requirements needed to offer professional child care while living in government-provided housing.

Overall, the initiative is set up to help applicants continue their child care business while undergoing the certification process, including CYS providing child care during training for the applicant's own children and the children they care for.

According to Installation Management Command-Europe CYS officials, a community member caring for children at home is a common practice. Unknown to many, however, is the need for specific certification.

"We are trying to reach people who are taking care of their neighbors' kids full time, often to help out their friends," said Cherri Verschraegen, IMCOM-Europe CYS program manager. "We are reaching out to those who might not realize they need to be certified through CYS."

And because many families are taking advantage of free and reduced pricing for child care through the Army Family Covenant, the need for providers has intensified. Accordingly, CYS has focused on recruiting in-home providers to meet the increasing demand.

"FCC providers offer a valuable service to the children of Soldiers and to the parents," Verschraegen said.

The program is a core Army service offered by CYS that allows home-based child care for troops and civilian personnel. The ongoing push is a short-term

recruitment incentive, allowing residents already providing child care to become authorized providers — while being allowed to continue earning income during the certification process.

There are many benefits to joining the FCC program, said Verschraegen, noting that besides being paid to work at home, other advantages include companionship for the providers' own children (if any), career development and free training.

Additionally, educational opportunities are built into the curriculum to allow providers to make child care a profession no matter where they are stationed. Other benefits include: free in-home assistance by an authorized FCC director; professional business training; food service subsidies; assistance in daily scheduling and planning activities; and access to a loan closet of toys and equipment.

People interested in developing a home-based vocation who enjoy working with children can contact their garrison CYS for more information or visit the website at www.mwr-europe.com.

Those already offering child care but needing to become authorized FCC providers should contact an area CYS office before June 30.

Contact information is:

U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach: mil 467-2536

USAG Bamberg: mil 469-8035

USAG Baumholder: mil 485-6588

USAG Grafenwöhr: mil 476-2783

USAG Heidelberg: mil 388-9378

USAG Hohenfels: mil 466-3221

USAG Kaiserslautern: civ (0631) 536-7182

USAG Mannheim: mil 380-9668

USAG Schinnen: mil 964-4193

USAG Schweinfurt: mil 354-6281

USAG Stuttgart: mil 430-4047

USAG Vicenza: mil 634-7615

USAG Wiesbaden: mil 335-5415, civ (0611) 408-0415

A work group discusses issues at the Army in Europe and Installation Management Command-Europe Army Family Action Plan conference in Weinheim May 14.

Photo by Bill Roche



AFAP.....

Continued from page 1

initiatives, spouse employment, active and reserve component Soldier entitlements, and benefits for retired service members.

With the help of AFAP facilitators and subject-matter experts, the delegates split into work groups focused on four overarching issue areas — community and family support, force support, health care, and employment and commercial services — to select the top issues in each area, then refined those concerns and wrote recommendations for acting on them. At week's end the groups shared the top 13 issues and recommendations, highlighting three issues the 59

delegates voted most important of all.

Those 13 issues — four in force support and three apiece in each of the other areas — will be prepared for presentation to a USAREUR AFAP steering committee meeting later this year. Some of them will be resolved locally, while others will be forwarded to the Department of the Army, Department of Defense or even higher levels.

"If (our senior leadership in Europe) can solve a problem, they will," said Jane Helfrich, IMCOM-E AFAP program manager. "They'll work very hard to do that. ... That's not to say that every single good idea gets implemented, but we try our best."

Top 13 AFAP issue recommendations

(Top three are in boldface type.)

Community and Family Support

❑ Amend the Exceptional Family Member Program screening process to include special-needs child care.

❑ Integrate mandatory newcomer orientation for spouses into existing Soldier inprocessing, specific to each Army installation.

❑ **Establish educational pre-kindergarten within the existing Department of Defense Dependent Schools framework, available to all children.**

❑ Amend regulations and statutes to conduct a monthly local market analysis of utilities costs, in order to recalculate Overseas Housing Allowance utility entitlements, and include actual utilities use and cost in the OHA survey.

❑ Incorporate a standard Army Family Team Building orientation briefing within the unit annual training plan and mandate the tracking and monitoring of Soldier AFTB training.

❑ Authorize a Dislocation Allowance entitlement to include all honorably discharged service members separating from the military.

❑ Mandate a dedicated line item budget entry with fenced appropriated funds for each installation Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program.

Health Care

❑ Establish regional Multi-Service Market Offices to consolidate and integrate existing medical

resources within each region to promote efficient use of medical assets and lessen travel requirements for patients needing specialty medical care; establish long-distance health communication such as tele-health, telemedicine and video teleconferencing for meeting with specialty care providers; and centralize referral management.

❑ Authorize an annual round-trip flight to a continental U.S. point of entry for children separated from a parent by an overseas duty assignment, and authorize a flight for a guardian to accompany a child, if required by regulation.

❑ Provide no-cost meals for breastfeeding mothers when their infants are hospitalized for inpatient treatment.

Employment and Commercial Services

❑ **Amend applicable Army regulations to include standardized position descriptions, training and individual development plans for Family Readiness Support Assistants and Family Readiness Support Technicians.**

❑ Include nonappropriated fund employees in current Title V legislation governing the civilian employee Voluntary Leave Transfer Program, to allow leave transfer between all NAF and appropriated fund employees.

❑ **Establish an employment preference for spouses of wounded Soldiers, effective upon discharge of the service member.**

From the blotter

Compiled by the U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden Directorate of Emergency Services

May 13

Wiesbaden: A Soldier was charged with being absent without leave after he failed to report for duty.

May 14

Wiesbaden: A Soldier was charged with communicating a threat after telling the Pond security guard that there might be a bomb during a routine search.

May 15

Baumholder: A noncommissioned officer was charged with aggravated assault and another Soldier was charged with wrongful damage of private property after the NCO punched the Soldier who in turn damaged a glass door.

Hanau: A Soldier was charged with wrongful sexual contact after massaging a victim and placing his hands in an inappropriate manner.

May 16

Baumholder: An NCO was charged with simple assault after grabbing a victim by the neck with one arm from behind in a chokehold and then pushing the victim.

May 17

Baumholder: A Soldier was charged with damage to private property after driving and striking another vehicle while it was parked.

May 18

Wiesbaden: An NCO was charged with improper backing after striking another vehicle.

May 20

Baumholder: A Soldier was charged with larceny of private funds after he removed another Soldier's automated teller machine card and withdrew \$418.36.

Wiesbaden: An unknown subject assaulted two Soldiers after a verbal altercation became physical with the subject punching the Soldiers in the face.

May 21

Hanau: A civilian employee was charged with simple assault after being involved in an altercation that turned physical. The employee forcefully pushed the victim.

Baumholder: A Soldier was charged with being drunk on duty after failing a command-directed intoxilyzer test.

May 22

Wiesbaden: Three family members were charged with wrongful use of a controlled substance after a Military Police officer conducted a routine check in the housing area.

May 23

Baumholder: A Soldier was charged in a traffic accident after striking an embankment during a blackout.

Wiesbaden: A Soldier was charged in a traffic accident after an improper lane change and striking another vehicle.

May 24

Baumholder: A Soldier and four unknown subjects were charged with aggravated assault (kicking) when a Soldier and an NCO were kicked numerous times, falling to the ground.

May 26

Baumholder: A Soldier was charged with drunken driving in a traffic accident after striking a dumpster which smashed into another vehicle.



Berlin Airlift

Continued from page 1

Butterfly' in Berlin when they stopped the production to say the war had begun," said Taylor.

"No one else in his family survived the war. ... He worked for the International Refugee Organization in Berlin after the war because he spoke so many languages," said Taylor.

While her father "never talked about the war," and the years following, her mother described "just how awful it was — tearing everything down that was wood — anything that was wood to use as fuel" and how her mother's father died of malnutrition before the war was over. "She always had stories about what they had to eat — digging for roots for soup, etc." Her mother also described how the citizens, desperate for fuel, tore down trees throughout the city.

The winter of 1948/1949 was also especially hard for the people of Berlin, she said.

During the blockade, Taylor said her mother described climbing aboard Russian coal train cars which had to pass through the Western sector to get to East Berlin in the night to steal coal. Men in her mother's neighborhood had figured out how to work the signals to make the trains stop. When the Russians got wind of the thefts, they patrolled with dogs to keep the desperate Berliners away from the trains.

"They were just contained in the city and trying to survive. ... It was so hard; that's what made them want to get out," said Taylor.

After marrying in Berlin, emigrating from Germany to the United States and arriving in New Orleans on Labor Day 1949 aboard a troop carrier, the couple ended up working on a plantation in Shreveport, La.

Wiesbaden High School teacher Christine Taylor

"I was born in 1951. I learned English from 'Howdy Doody,' 'Sky King' and 'Mickey Mouse' — they taught me English," said the Wiesbaden teacher describing an isolated childhood — her father serving as a gardener and her mother as a housekeeper. "They then went into business with this family and raised turkeys and had a turkey farm."

While growing up, Taylor recalled regularly sending "care packages" to



U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden file photo

C-54s stand out against the snow at Wiesbaden Air Base during the Berlin Airlift in March 1949.

family left behind in and around Berlin.

"Growing up I remember we always had an emergency suitcase packed — my mom called it a boogie bag — in case we had to leave in the middle of the night. They had lost so much money during the war years that she would never again invest in the government."

Now, 60 years later, Taylor is sharing her memories with her Wiesbaden students, while working with them on a special Berlin Airlift Anniversary project to be entered in a competition being conducted by the American Consulate and city of Frankfurt. Students researched the Berlin Airlift and put together a website showcasing student work and historical insights. The students also made parachutes with chocolate, modeled after those originated by Lt. Gail Halvorsen (the candy bomber) during the airlift, to send to a German school in Berlin (run by one of Taylor's in-laws). "We're building bridges between Wiesbaden High School and the school in Berlin, between what the Allies did during the Berlin Airlift and what's being done in Iraq today, between the past and the present, Germans and Americans," she said.

Taylor, who is married to a Vietnam War veteran, added that she is proud as an American to be part of ongoing efforts to "bring freedom and democracy to so many places. We can impact the world for the good. ... Here it is 60 years later and people are still excited about the Berlin Airlift."

To view the high school airlift

website, visit the U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden's Berlin Airlift home page at www.usaghessen.eur.army.mil/BA/BA.htm and click on the "Wiesbaden High Berlin Airlift website" link on the lower left side of the page.

A child in Berlin

Traute Grier experienced the war years firsthand as a child in Berlin. Recalling the hardships of the post-war years, Grier described how she and her mother (her father died during the war) were fortunate to be able to put mustard on their bread or to fry it in sugar to make a meal. Another staple was potatoes — "one day we had soup with potatoes and the next day it was potatoes with soup. My mother worked in a school, so we had a little food.

"We were afraid when the Soviet blockade began. The Russians were not our friends," said Grier, who has long been a naturalized American citizen after having married a U.S. Army dentist in Berlin and living in the States for many years. "We were afraid the Allies would leave."

The conditions in Berlin were worse for the adults who constantly worried about surviving, than for the children, said Grier, who lived in the Neu Köln section of Berlin and was born in 1932. "But as a child during the blockade, the worst thing was having no lights." With only up to four hours of electricity a night, people got used to cooking and performing other chores at home in the wee hours of the night, she said. "As children we always had a fear that some-

one was waiting for us in the dark."

Grier said she would never forget the sound of planes arriving with needed relief for the citizens of Berlin every few minutes. While she never went to Tempelhof to wave to the incoming pilots and to compete for chocolate treats ("too many boys, and I didn't have a sweet tooth"), she did occasionally join other German youths at a youth club, started by the American forces, in Tempelhof.

"It's sad that the story about the Berlin Airlift is being forgotten," said Grier, who now lives in the town of Oberursel, just north of Frankfurt. "If it hadn't happened and the Allies had left, Germany would have fallen to the Russians and sunk into the East zone. And then what would have happened to Europe? That didn't happen thanks to Gen. (Lucius D.) Clay (U.S. military governor of Germany) for standing fast and making sure the airlift occurred and was a success.

"Children these days don't understand that if things had gone wrong in 1948 and 1949 how different the world would be today," she said. *(See the next issue for more on the Berlin Airlift.)*



Former Berliner Traute Grier

‘Mercedes and the Chocolate Pilot’

Speaker shares Berlin Airlift memories with Wiesbaden students

**Story and photos by
Karl Weisel**

*U.S. Army Garrison Hessen/
Wiesbaden Public Affairs Office*

A storybook character came alive for German and American students at Wiesbaden’s Aukamm and Hainerberg Elementary Schools May 16.

After having worked together on a video project in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift related to the children’s story, “Mercedes and the Chocolate Pilot,” Aukamm Elementary and Nauheim Grundsichule students were treated to a visit by the real-life title character.

“I’m of course much older than years ago,” said Mercedes Wild as she described what it was like to be a 7-year-old child in post-war Berlin during the Soviet Blockade from June 1948 to May 1949.

“We had little to eat,” Wild told the youngsters, explaining that the western portion of Berlin had very little farmland. And although the Soviets tried to entice Berliners over to the eastern side with promises of food, those in the west knew better than to sacrifice their freedom.

When the Allied airplanes began delivering coal, food and other supplies, Wild said she was afraid bombs would once again fall on the city. “I asked my grandmother if we should go downstairs in the cellar once more, but she told me this time the planes were bringing food and coal.”

Wild and her husband, Peter, described how cold it was during the winter of 1948/49. “We had no good clothes, no shoes,” she told the students. “But we didn’t fear the cold winter; we feared the Russians.”

When a plane crashed 200 meters from her house in Berlin, killing the two pilots on board, Wild said everything in sight was coated in white flour. “It might have been our house, the plane hit. ... I remember being very sleepy in the mornings because of the noise of the airplanes in the night.”

Peter told the German and American youngsters that the flights between Berlin and other cities in Germany were only the tip of the iceberg. “The real airlift stretched all across the United States and the Atlantic Ocean using airplanes, trains, trucks and ships,” he said, describing the incredible logistical



Mercedes Wild signs copies of the book, “Mercedes and the Chocolate Pilot” for German and American students at Aukamm Elementary School. The students worked on a joint project about the Berlin Airlift.



The “Candy Bomber,” Gail Halvorsen, talks to German admirers at the closing of Rhein-Main Air Base in October 2005.

effort involved in moving massive quantities of supplies from the United States to Berlin. He also described the phenomenal achievement of building a new airport in Berlin — Tegel Airport — as the airlift was in progress. “Ten-thousand women built a new airport in three months.”

As recounted in the story by author Margot Theis Raven, Mercedes watched as planes flew overhead wishing that one day the tiny parachutes bearing chocolate would find their way into her hands. After being advised by her grandmother to write to the “candy bomber,”

Lt. Gail Halvorsen, Wild eventually received a letter back that explained the pilot was unable to spot her house and her white chicken from the air, but included peppermint gum. Although she said she gave away the gum, having never before tasted anything like it, “The most important thing for me was this letter. ... Chocolate and chewing gum were unknown to us.”

Having lost her father during World War II, Wild said she

looked to Halvorsen as a surrogate dad. “My father was also a pilot in World War II and he was missed early in the war. My mother and I didn’t know what happened to him. ... The chocolate uncle became a symbol of my father.”

Years later in the early 1970s when Halvorsen was back in Berlin, Peter approached him showing the letter the pilot had written to the young girl and Wild had treasured for more than two decades. The meeting evolved into a long-term friendship with the Halvorsen and Wild families sharing

each other’s company and friendship until the present day. It also grew into a German and American school partnership program between the Gottfried Keller Gymnasium where Peter taught in Berlin and Provo High School, near Halvorsen’s home in Utah.

“You see what a letter, what a trail it has — 60 years later — that is friendship,” said Peter.

Peter and Mercedes also told the children how they learned “American, not English” after the war thanks to the American Forces Network Radio. “The best teacher for German kids to learn English was AFN,” recalled Peter.

During the 50th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift at Tempelhof Airport in Berlin, Wild was invited onstage along with Halvorsen and President Bill Clinton. “Ten years ago I had the honor to say thank you on behalf of the people of Berlin.

“Without the help of the Americans (and the other Allies), I wouldn’t be here. I wouldn’t be alive to enjoy the freedom you brought to us Germans,” she said. *(Editor’s note: Mercedes Wild, along with Gail Halvorsen and other airlift veterans, will be on hand to meet visitors during the open house at Wiesbaden Army Airfield June 29 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Visit the garrison home page at www.wiesbaden.army.mil and click on the Berlin Airlift logo for more information.)*





Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Patrick Douglas leads the procession to the 1st Armored Division Memorial Monument site during the U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden and Task Force Iron Sentinel Memorial Day Ceremony May 22. The monument was dedicated to the 117 Iron Soldiers who lost their lives during Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2005 to 2008.



Col. James McGinnis Jr. (from left), Staff Sgt. Dana Brown and Command Sgt. Maj. Victor Blade unveil the 1st AD Memorial Monument during the community Memorial Day ceremony.

Communities remember fallen warriors

Story and photos by
Chrystal Smith

U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden
Public Affairs Office

"They are our nation's very best ... and we have an obligation to honor their memories in the way we lead our lives each and every day."

The community of Wiesbaden honored the memories of military members who died serving the United States of America May 22 in a ceremony that began with a memorial observance at Veterans Park, continued on with a procession lead by a Soldier playing bagpipes and ended with a 1st Armored Division monument dedication at Wiesbaden Army Airfield.

Sue Hertling said she took a moment to look deeper into the formation on the parade field in the fall of 2007 seeing how easily the impact of one Soldier's life on a community can be forgotten.

"But when you take time to study each face and you think about all the people who love and depend on that man or woman ... well, then it becomes much more personal," she said.

Col. James McGinnis Jr., Task Force Iron Sentinel commander, and TFIS Command Sgt. Maj. Victor Blade unveiled a monument that was evidence of Wiesbaden's personal sacrifice for freedom.

The memorial pyramid made of granite sits outside of the 1st AD Headquarters and represents three units from the

division — 2nd Brigade Combat Team from Baumholder, 1st Brigade Combat Team from Friedberg and 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division from Schweinfurt. Under the featured division crest the inscription reads, "Greater love has no man than this that he lay down his life for his friends." The other sides feature 117 names of Soldiers killed while supporting the Global War on Terrorism.

"This memorial which we dedicate today is for the Iron Soldiers who gave their full measure," said McGinnis. "Their sacrifice creates a debt that America can never fully repay."

Though the event was solemn, it was not to be seen as a day of mourning, but rather of commemoration, said Jim Stewart, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 27 commander. "We celebrate the lives lived of those who fought to keep America free."

While only one day a year is set aside to honor the fallen, it isn't enough in comparison to what was given, said Col. Ray Graham, U.S. Army Garrison Hessen/Wiesbaden commander. "Out of gratitude for their sacrifice we should honor them every day. ... It is most appropriate that we set aside one day to give special honor to our fallen brothers and sisters in uniform."

"We must honor our obligation to remember our fallen heroes. ... We must teach our youth that nothing comes without a cost," said Stewart.

Soldiers honored would've probably

declined the recognition, said McGinnis. "Each would shake his or her head and say, 'I was just doing my job.'"

In a separate ceremony at Dexheim's Anderson Barracks May 22, members of the 123rd Main Support Battalion remembered their fallen comrade, Sgt.

Orenthial J. Smith. A native of Allendale, S.C., Smith enlisted in the Army in 1999. He was killed in Iraq in June 2003 when his convoy was ambushed by small arms fire south of Baghdad.

Smith was awarded the Bronze Star posthumously.



Photo by Karl Weisel

Welcome to Wiesbaden

Lt. Col. Jon Fristoe (center), 421st Multifunctional Medical Battalion commander, leads Capt. Thomas W. Sherbert (left), outgoing 557th Medical Company commander, and incoming commander, Capt. William D. Spruill, off the field during the company change of command ceremony May 29. "You are surrounded by great NCOs and caring leaders," Fristoe told the new commander during the ceremony.

JLC school wraps up mission in Dexheim

By Chrystal Smith

U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden
Public Affairs Office

Members of the 123rd Main Support Battalion's Junior Leadership Course furl the school's flag during a small ceremony at Anderson Barracks May 28 in anticipation of the approaching Mighty Main inactivation.

"The Army is always in need of great leaders," said Lt. Col. Orlando Critzer, 123rd Main Support Battalion commander.

And since 2006 the cadre of the leadership course has conducted 30 classes and taught 400 Soldiers.

"It was designed to teach young Soldiers early in their careers how things work in the Army; to give them a basic foundation of leadership skills," said Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Penn who said he jumped at the opportunity of developing the program here after seeing several while he was stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C. "If we as noncommissioned officers have a shortage in sergeants, that means we have to build some."

The course was the only one of its kind in U.S. Army Europe, and leaders said they were proud to have played a



Photo by Chrystal Smith

Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Penn looks on as Sgt. 1st Class Jasper Cuthrell and Staff Sgt. Albert Patton furl the Joint Leadership Course flag during a ceremony May 28 at Anderson Barracks to signify closure. Since holding its first class in January 2006, the course has held 30 classes, graduating 400 Soldiers.

role in helping guide many outstanding Soldiers in Europe.

We trained the 2006 Army Soldiers of the Year and NCO runner-up, and were handpicked by the USAREUR command

sergeant major to train the 2007 Soldier and NCO hopefuls, said Staff Sgt. Albert Patton, JLC NCO in charge.

"How odd that they would come to us ... a bunch of logisticians in the

middle of nowhere," said Critzer as he told of being assigned the task of training the 2006 USAREUR NCO and Soldier of the Year. "They did it because it's that good."

The leadership course offered 32 blocks of instruction over the course of 11 days.

"We taught those Soldiers everything from weapons to financial management to accountability of property to land navigation," said Patton, who added that the success of the program was directly tied to the examples set by the course's instructors. "We hold each Soldier accountable to the same standard; so if that Soldier you're training is 'ate up,' so are you, because they are a reflection of your leadership."

Though the program was designed to achieve a purpose, battalion leaders said they enjoyed the added benefits offered though the program's presence.

"The cadre was my 911," said Penn. "Whether it was to run a range, set up training, whatever it was, I called on them to get it done. It was exciting to see it evolve into this kind of course."

The 123rd MSB will hold its inactivation ceremony June 5 at the battalion parade field.

Observance honors Asian Pacific Americans



Master Sgt. Mark Jordan learns a few new dance moves from one of the Island Dancers during the Asian Pacific Heritage Month Luncheon May 28.

Story and photos by Karl Weisel

U.S. Army Garrison Hesse/Wiesbaden
Public Affairs Office

Hula skirts and a celebration of diversity highlighted the U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden's Asian Pacific Heritage Month Luncheon May 28.

Guest speaker Lt. Col. Maria P. Eoff, deputy commander of the 29th Support Group based in Kaiserslautern, drew a parallel between the rich diversity of the U.S. population and the different colors and fabrics woven together to form the American flag.

"We Americans must be like the flag," said Eoff, praising how people of many different ethnic and cultural backgrounds "have woven themselves harmoniously into America and her greatness."

Citing many of the famous Asians through history who have played major roles on the world's stage such as Indian independence leader Mohandas Gandhi and artist/architect Maya Lin, Eoff said diversity was only one vital key to helping a nation succeed. Alluding to the theme of this year's Asian Pacific Heritage Month, she pointed out that leadership and harmony are equally important. "Diversity is only one of the elements to the gateway to success."

Referring to the many military men and women of Asian Pacific heritage who have played roles throughout American history, including campaigns in Italy during World War II and as leaders today, Eoff said their contributions stand alongside those of the many other Americans of similarly diverse backgrounds.

Members of the audience joined in celebrating the annual observance by accompanying the Island Dancers. As hula skirts were distributed, Soldiers and civilians in the audience were invited up on stage to get a quick lesson in dances from regions throughout the Pacific ranging from the Philippines to Hawaii.

Asian Pacific Heritage Month is observed in May in commemoration of the immigration of the first Japanese Americans on May 7, 1843, and the completion of the transcontinental railroad on

May 10, 1869.

It was originally established as a weeklong observance in 1978 and was declared an annual month-long event in 1990 by President George Bush.

Today about 15 million Americans claim Asian Pacific heritage, said Eoff.



Lt. Col. Maria P. Eoff addresses this year's theme of "Leadership, diversity, harmony — gateway to success."

Volunteers give millions to community

*Inspiring others
by example*

By Chrystal Smith
U.S. Army Garrison
Wiesbaden Public Affairs
Office

U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden recognized the \$1.2 million worth of volunteer hours contributed during a ceremony at the Community Activity Center May 15.

"When I was younger, I was at first afraid to volunteer," said Christine Maxwell who was awarded the Department of Defense Humanitarian Service Medal for her volunteer efforts.

As author of "The Ultimate Volunteer Guidebook for Young People," Maxwell told the young people in the audience, "By volunteering, you set the example for future generations."

As an example, 9-year-old Youth Volunteer of the Year Meagan Harger logged 120 hours by giving up lunch and recess to provide reading assistance to first-graders.

"I couldn't resist doing it; it was too fun," said Harger. "I like making new friends and helping people. Helping is my hobby."

Harger's volunteer efforts exemplified the theme of this year's event "Inspire by Example." She said her mother Tracey, who is an active volunteer in the community with the Girl Scouts and Catholic services, served as her inspiration.

"I started by helping my mom out a lot; just like her I wanted



Meagan Harger, Youth Volunteer of the Year, and Joe Murray (left) Adult Volunteer of the Year, share laughs with Dr. Robert Kandler, USAG Wiesbaden's deputy to the commander, during the Volunteer Appreciation Ceremony.

to start with the young kids. So I went to help the first-graders," said Meagan

The plan to inspire by example was successful, according to Tracey. "I wanted it to be something they want to do," she said. "I wanted to teach them that if you're helping someone you're making a big difference. Making a difference can be big even if you think your help is little."

Adult Volunteer of the Year Jeff Murray said he also grew up with a living example of volunteerism.

"I saw my father involved a lot as a coach when I was a child," said Murray, who logged 1,260 hours during this volun-

teer year as an assistant scoutmaster with Boy Scout Troop 107.

"I didn't realize how important volunteering was for the Boy Scouts," he said. "I can't emphasize how much time in aggregate goes into a Boy Scout troop. It is tremendous."

The time he spends active in community service has a two-fold purpose. "The best way to encourage volunteering with my children is to have them see me do it. And because it's with the youth, it makes me feel younger," said Murray who is an engineer by trade, but said he works part time as a system administrator in order to be able to volunteer.

Photo by Chrystal Smith

savings to the garrison would be an understatement, leaders said.

"This is not how much you have saved the garrison. This amount represents the value you have put back into this community," said Dr. Robert Kandler, deputy to the garrison commander, as he thanked the volunteers for the valued support each individual provides the community's Soldiers and families.

In addition to the Volunteers of the Year, 11 others were recognized as star volunteers for hours worked, the impact and contribution to the community, the extent of dedication and commitment, special achievements and accomplishments, and volunteer work at other organizations. They were: Tonya Phillips – 409 hours; La Shawn Merceron – 239; Stephen Thompson – 408 hours; Sondra Willis – 375 hours; Cheri Volkin – 421 hours; Kathy Hersey – 228 hours; Krystal Neal – 190 hours; Jessica Thorpe – 355 hours; Jessica Schick – 382 hours; Andrea Jackson – 402 hours; and Mari Lu Shore – 370 hours.

To become a registered volunteer in the community sign on to the Volunteer Management Information System at www.myarmylifetoo.com.




Photo by Peter Witmer

Performance in the Kurhaus

Members of the Wiesbaden High School Choir and pianist Fabian Witmer joined a prestigious list of well-known music makers including Chuck Leavell and Felicia Taylor to take the stage at Wiesbaden's annual Wine Ball in the Kurhaus May 17. Guests included Hessen Minister President Roland Koch. Berlin Airlift veteran Gail Halvorsen sent a taped message. This year's theme was "German-American Friendship."

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Soldiers and families get ready to sing the "Army Song."



Col. James L. McGinnis Jr., Task Force Iron Sentinel commander, congratulates Staff Sgt. Lester Richmond and others for their service and dedication during the Task Force Iron Sentinel retirement ceremony.

Soldiers, families honored upon retirement

**Story and photos by
Karl Weisel**
*U.S. Army Garrison Hessen/
Wiesbaden Public Affairs
Office*

Members of the Task Force Iron Sentinel family gathered in the Wiesbaden Fitness Center May 21 to bid farewell to nine retirees and their families.

"We pay tribute to nine outstanding Soldiers and their families," said Col. James L. McGinnis Jr., Task Force Iron Sentinel commander, adding that the ceremony was intended to "honor the service of these

great Americans.

"Collectively they have given 231 years of service," McGinnis said.

Noting the rich diversity of the nine retirees — "coming from all walks of life," having served everywhere the nation called upon them to serve — McGinnis said. "Whenever your Army called you, you answered."

The 1st Armored Division leader also cited the many awards and individual achievements accumulated by the nine

veterans — everything from Bronze Stars to the Legion of Merit and supply excellence recognition.

"These Soldiers understand that freedom is a priceless possession. ... They are in many ways the best of America," he said.

Retirees received certificates of appreciation signed by President George Bush.

"And we salute your families," McGinnis said, adding, "These families know the pain of separation and the joy of reunion. ... We cannot thank you enough for all the sacri-

fices that have been made. ... thank you for your service and thank you for your sacrifices.

"Each of you has made a difference in the lives of many, and you encourage us to do the same," McGinnis said.

Before inviting all those in attendance to congratulate the Soldiers and their families on their years of dedicated service, the Task Force Iron Sentinel commander reminded those preparing to make the transition to civilian life that they would "always be a part of the Army Family."

The following Soldiers were recognized during the ceremony:

Maj. Ivan L. James — served for 21 years, having enlisted in the Army in 1987. He served as a staff sergeant before being commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Quartermaster Branch after attending Officer Candidate School. He last served as the brigade adjutant for Task Force Iron Sentinel.

Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Cabrera — served 28 years after entering the Army in 1980. A native of the Dominican Republic, Cabrera last served as the 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery command sergeant major.

Master Sgt. Leary Henry — served 23 years after enlisting in 1984. His last assignment was as the noncommissioned officer in charge of Task Force Iron

Sentinel's S-4 section.

Master Sgt. Terry S. Huckeba — joined the Army in 1985, serving 23 years. His most recent assignment was with 1st Armored Division in Wiesbaden.

Master Sgt. Wayne B. Knutson — served 21 years after entering the Army in 1987.

Master Sgt. Jay Milton Osborne IV — served nearly 23 years after joining the military in 1985. His last assignment was as the Asset Management Branch noncommissioned officer in charge of 1st Armored Division's Support Command Property Book Office.

Sgt. 1st Class Miguel Flores — a native of Panama, Flores served for 22 years after joining the Army in 1986. He most recently served with the 123rd Main Support Battalion in Dexheim.

Sgt. 1st Class James Dalton Greer — enlisted in the Virginia Army National Guard in 1980 and served a total of 28 years. His most recent assignment was as the maintenance manager for the Low Density and Below Line Fleets of the 1st Armored Division's Division Support Command.

Staff Sgt. Lester Richmond — Chicago native Richmond joined the military in 1988 and served for two decades including deployments to Bosnia, Kosovo and Iraq.

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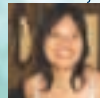
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Community news notes ... Community news notes

Girl Scout volunteers

Do you have what it takes to help girls grow strong? USA Girl Scouts Overseas is recruiting volunteers to serve as troop leaders, assistant leaders, Overseas Committee members, chairperson, public relations, hut manager, awards coordinator and event coordinator. Training will be provided. To get involved email wiesbadengs@yahoo.com.

Change of command

Lt. Col. Robert W. DeJong will pass the reins of the Defense Supply Center Philadelphia, European Region, to Lt. Col. Thomas B. Murphree during a ceremony at Building 4043 on Mainz-Kastel Storage Station June 12 at 10 a.m. Rear Admiral Henry B. Tomlin III, commander of the Defense Supply Center Philadelphia, Defense Logistics Agency, is the guest speaker and reviewing official.

Summertime fun

Young people have a host of special activities from trips to swimming, go-karting to sports and fitness during the 2008 Child and Youth Services Summer Activities. Visit the garrison website at www.wiesbaden.army.mil and click on the "2008 CYS Summer Activities" link in the lower left column for a detailed listing of programs and services.

Join the Girl Scouts

Girls age 5 and older (and adult volunteers) are invited to join the Wiesbaden Area Girl Scouts. Send an email to Wiesbadengs@yahoo.com if interested.

FRG meeting

A 1st Armored Division Special Troops Battalion Super Family Readiness Group Meeting will be held June 9 at 6:30 p.m. at the Flyers Theater on Wiesbaden Army Airfield. Child care will be available from 6:30-8 p.m. (call mil 337-4239 to make arrangements). The topic is "Let's talk about redeployment and what it means to you." Door prizes will be given out.

Chain teaching videos

The Office of the Surgeon General has developed two vid-



Photo by Pat Strobel

Reward for creativity

Christine Jones (left) of the Wiesbaden Army Substance Abuse Program and Eric Goldman, Wiesbaden High School principal, help high school teacher Jayne Short celebrate her winning entry in the ASAP slogan contest. Short won a gift basket promoting a healthy lifestyle for submitting the winning entry, "Escape the alcohol and drug trap — call ASAP — your Army Substance Abuse Program" during the Community Expo. For more information about ASAP call mil 337-1710 or civ (0611) 705-1710.

eos aimed at familiarizing Soldiers and family members with signs and symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Mild Traumatic Brain Injury. The videos are available online at www.behavioralhealth.army.mil.

Dolly and Me Tea Party

The Wiesbaden Library hosts a Dolly and Me Tea Party for young readers June 14 at 2 p.m. An ice cream social is slated for June 28 at 2 p.m.

AAFES yard sale

An Army and Air Force Exchange Service yard sale will be held June 7 in front of the Power Zone on Mainz-Kastel Storage Station from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cost for a space to sell items is \$10. Setup time will be from 8-10 a.m. that day. Contact Brian or Joe at civ (0171) 7779 681 or

(0160) 966 8015 to reserve a spot.

VFW meetings

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 27 meet every second Thursday of the month in the Community Activity Center on Wiesbaden Army Airfield at 7 p.m. Social time is held from 5-7 p.m. before the meeting starts. Visit www.vfwpost27.org for more information.

Flea market May 31

The Special Troops Battalion of 1st Armored Division holds a flea market May 31 in the Hainerberg Army Community Service Cafeteria. Doors open at 8 a.m. May 31. Call Heike Griffin at civ (0177) 646 5662 for more information.

Limited clinic hours

The Wiesbaden Health

Clinic will have limited services June 13 — appointments, prescriptions and lab work only. No walk-ins or immunizations will be available. The clinic will have normal times and regular services June 16.

Kontakt has new meeting place

The German-American Kontakt Club now holds its monthly Stammtisch the first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Buffalo Steakhouse on Berlinerstr. 11 in Wiesbaden. For more information about getting involved with Kontakt call Alexi at civ (0611) 949 0532 or (0163) 397 7693.

Indoor flea market

The Community Activity Center holds its next indoor flea market June 21 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Rent a table and chairs for \$10. Call mil 337-5750 or civ (0611) 705-5750 to reserve a space.

New EO adviser

U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden welcomed a new Equal

Opportunity adviser, Master Sgt. Mark Jordan, on May 19. "I'm excited about this new opportunity and I've wanted this for a long time," said the recent graduate of the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute. "The Wiesbaden community is a special place, a home, and we are like a big family. I want everyone to know that I'm here and what I can offer them." In addition to providing training, advice, guidance and mediation/facilitation skills, Jordan said, "I want to reinvigorate our special ethnic observance program. I would like to see a diverse council of Soldiers, civilian employees and family members working together to plan and conduct our observances." To get involved in EO or for assistance contact Jordan by calling mil 337-5897 or stopping by his office in Building 1062, Room 202 on Wiesbaden Army Airfield.



Master Sgt. Mark Jordan



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Battle buddies strengthen the community

Story and photo by
**Stacy Theresa
Graham**
U.S. Army Garrison Public
Affairs Office

During training and war it is common for Soldiers to have battle buddies. These partners watch out for one another.

Smith Elementary School adopted this idea to encourage community members to help each other through the deployment.

"This is the first time that we really looked to see what others can do for us," said Sharon Kieta, school psychologist.

Four sections make up the Battle Buddy program which includes students, staff members and faculty, military mentors and parents.

Each class at Smith Elementary School is paired up with another class to learn from their experiences and how to handle situations that may arise during a deployment depending on their age. "We have made it so the older students are interacting with the younger students," said Natarsha Baker, Smith Elementary counselor.

"Teachers and staff members have become battle buddies among themselves because even the faculty needs guidance and help sometimes," said Baker. Teachers also take part in activities to help the students cope through art projects facilitated by school counselors. The projects can then be sent to



Spc. Kory Ingole, a Soldier assigned to the Warrior Transition Unit, makes pizza sticks with Louise Gregory's first-grade class as part of his mentoring as a battle buddy.

Soldiers who are deployed.

The 92nd Military Police Company, the Warrior Transition Unit and 1-35th Task Force Rock act as military mentors by visiting classrooms a few times a week to work with their buddy class. Military mentors who volunteer for this program have gone through an orientation and training program.

Soldiers participate in buddy reading, art projects and a variety of other activities with the students. Although they serve as mentors to the children, by being buddied with one or two students, they additionally support the whole class.

"Parents getting together to

share 'best practices' in managing the 'homefront,'" stated a sign in front of the school welcoming parents to find out about becoming a battle buddy in front of Smith Elementary School.

The focus of parents becoming a battle buddy is to share information about programs and experiences they have had with deployments and living in Germany.

"Programs are becoming more family-oriented, and there are different levels of knowledge within the community. By working together the deployment could be a lot easier for some families. We

all need help at times and can use the advice," said Kieta. Smith Elementary School is working with Army Community Service to have staff members come to the school to teach subjects such as finan-

cial planning. During the class children are entertained since a lot of people need to bring their children to events.

"I just want to be around adults. I never really got that involved with the FRGs because I've had bad experiences. They didn't do things like this at the last place I was. I want to meet people who want to do the same thing and make friends," said Teresa Broadus, parent.

Parents are given the option to pair up with someone they know, or they can fill out an interest sheet and be matched with a battle buddy. "People start to isolate (themselves) to get through the deployment," said Kieta.

Battle buddies gives the community a chance to socialize, travel, meet other families and make their life a little easier. It is a way to give support. Although the students, faculty and military mentors will stop being battle buddies during the summer the parents program will continue.

Community update

Sport opportunities

The U.S. Forces Europe Tennis Championship at Heidelberg Tennis Center will be held July 18-20. Register by July 17. For details call mil 388-9037 or 373-8032.

There will be a bodybuilding competition June 28 at Mildenhall, England. All entrants registered must have paid their registration fee by the

morning of June 28. Registration is ongoing.

Call the Mildenhall Sports and Fitness Center at mil 238-3735 or 2349 for more information.

Around the town

The following host nation events are scheduled in the nearby communities.

June 6-8, Hutmacherfest (hat-maker fest) at Kusel

June 7-8, Team triathlon at Baumholder City Lake. Youth teams will compete June 7 and the adult competition will be held June 8

June 13-15, City fest at St.

Wendel

June 14-15, Soapbox race at Heimbach, www.besenbinderhkg.de

June 15, Flea market at Idar-Oberstein Globus area

June 21-22, IVV-Volksmarch at Heimbach

June 21-22, Fishermen-Fest at Baumholder City Lake

June 22, Medieval Market at Thallichtenberg Castle

June 27, Lindenfest downtown Baumholder

June 27 to July 1, Spiessbratenfest at Idar-Oberstein

June 28-29, IVV Volksmarch at Weierbach.



Photo by Izabella Gordon

Featured photo

Alyssa Gordon plays at the Baumholder park by the lake enjoying the nice weather. To have your photo featured in the *Herald Union*, send it to stacy.graham3@eur.army.mil or call mil 485-7517.



Sharing love and trust with children

**Story and photo by
Stacy Theresa Graham**
*U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder
Public Affairs Office*

Melissa Miller and Edy Borrow, employees at the Wetzel Child Development Center, recently became certified for their Child Development Associates in infants and toddlers while Nancy Tibias became recertified. The process is complex and lengthy, taking about 18 months to complete.

"Some people are just not motivated to do it, but I want to excel," said Miller.

A book of modules teaches the employee in steps about safety, health, their environment, how to work with special needs children and other related job information. At the end of each chapter there is a test and they are required to write a 500-word essay on what they have learned and gained from this training when all the chapters are completed.

A CDA resource book and their portfolio provide a reference for the future if they cannot remember exactly what they have learned. Employees had a trainer to guide them through the process and let them know when they were ready to get certified. When they are ready, interviewed and tested again, they wait to find out how they did. It could take anywhere from five weeks to three months for the results.

The certification lasts three years, but once recertified it is good for five years. The three women have been working in child care from three years to 10 years and all agreed they loved their job and wouldn't change it for anything.

The three women have found numerous challenges working at the Wetzel CDC. "It is challenging when they (the children) leave us. They PCS and we get attached to them," said Tibias.

"Especially when they come in only six weeks old and we watch them grow," added Borrow.

Miller had another challenge which she relied on her training to overcome. "The most challenging part is when you have all seven children crying at once. You have to have patience. You have to multi-task," she said.

There were different reasons why they chose child care as their profession. Tibias, who was looking for a job, was hired at a child development center. "I'm stuck, this is it. I love it. I do it for free on the weekends for respite care. I was just looking for a job and they hired me," she said.

She worked in most of the positions. "While at the dispensary I worked the desk, kitchen, bus driver and ended up being a manager. I wanted to go back to the babies. Babies are my favorite. I even worked at the Teen Center, SAS program and volunteered. It is not baby-sitting. Even if I was not getting a paycheck I would still do it," she said.

Borrow worked in customer service for six years. "I thought I would try child care. When I saw the children, I ended up really enjoying being around the babies. I wouldn't trade my job for the world," said Borrow. She explained she spends more time at the Wetzel CDC than at home and never wants to go back to customer service.

Miller had a completely different reason for getting involved with child care, a very personal reason. Miller loves children and there are a lot of children in her family, but it wasn't until she joined the Army and had her first child that she would change her opinion on child care. "I was recommended to one child care person and it was emotional. I would do drive-bys to check on my son and walked by the window. I saw the lady smoking a cigarette in a nightgown with seven

carriers around her. My son's diaper was full. We took him and felt betrayed. We told all the other parents about it. I wanted my son to have one-on-one attention, not in a center. CYS came through when I was in this emergency situation and I fell in love with one of their FCC providers."

Miller did not want to stay at home once her children went to school so she went to work for CYS. "Not until I got to be a part of CYS did I realize the role I play in a family's life, especially in a military family. I treat them like they were my children, even better. They depend upon us. I take the job very seriously. I appreciate all the training I receive. It is better for the kids and me," said Miller.

"We all love what we do, and our staff is great. You have to interact with the kids. If we didn't have the staff we would be lost. As a lead you have to remember, just because you are a leader you should not dictate and tell them things to do that you wouldn't do yourself," said Borrow.

There is an open door policy at the Wetzel CDC. Parents can come and watch if they are worried about their child.

"Some parents are not as enthusiastic about children and don't know what a miracle it is to have a child. We invite them in to see how special their child is. When they see how energetic we are they get excited. I love family and children. This is my chosen profession because I know what it means to have someone (show) love for your child," said Miller.



Melissa Miller shows her affection to a child at the Wetzel CDC.

Kids Group of Feelings helps students with deployment

By Stacy Theresa Graham
U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder Public Affairs Office

A special biweekly deployment support group has been started at Smith Elementary School for fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grade students called "Kids Group of Feelings."

Normally each grade meets separately for group counseling or individual counseling, but on May 2 there was a combined session to talk about their feelings and partake in a fun activity led by school counselor Natarsha Baker.

The group starts out by forming a circle and focuses on changes within the family because of the military lifestyle and the deployment. Topics discussed ranged from how responsibilities have changed for each family member to how to assist your family members.

Some students were concerned about new broth-

ers and sisters being born, more chores, their mother getting a new job, sisters and brothers misbehaving, the change in how often they can talk to their fathers, fear of going to summer camps and leaving their family back here.

Students learned skills to cope. "Deployment is just one challenge in your life," said Baker. To help with coping, students were told to keep busy in order to keep their minds occupied, to concentrate on school work and to not worry as much about their parents if they have to leave them alone for camp.

"Learning how to manage and cope with situations are skills you will use throughout your life. When you get to college you are going to benefit from this," said Baker.

The group did an activity to build self-esteem, share feelings and to realize how important it is to feel good about who you are.

"A lot of times we focus on the negative, I know you will learn a lot from each other," said Baker. She then gave them an assignment — to compliment three people and think about their reactions.



Photo by Stacy Theresa Graham
Fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grade students form a circle at the beginning of their session of "Kids Group of Feelings" led by school counselor Natarsha Baker at Smith Elementary School.

2nd BCT holds Memorial Day ceremony

Memorial Day is a day for Americans around the world to honor the memory of their fallen friends and comrades.

For Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, this day of remembrance was recognized during a ceremony held at Forward Operating Base Hammer, Iraq.

With the United States, Iraqi and the 2nd BCT's colors all ruffling in the desert breeze, the ceremony opened with a speech from Col. Pat White, 2nd BCT commander.

White began his speech by explaining the deep bond Soldiers share with one another.

"Soldiers endure hardships together and help one another overcome fear, difficulty and loss," White said. "Soldiers understand that our freedoms do not endure without a firm and clear resolve — sometimes at a terrible and final sacrifice."

White went into detail explaining that even on holidays such as Memorial Day, Soldiers continue fulfilling their duty to their country.



Col. Pat White, 2nd BCT commander, addresses Soldiers in Iraq.

"Right now, as I speak to you, heroes are risking their lives somewhere out there," White said. "They do this for us; they do this for their country; they do this because, like millions before them, they accepted the defense of freedom as a very personal matter."

White also took time to recognize the Iron Brigade's fallen comrades from past deployments.

"The blood of 48 Iron Brigade Soldiers has soaked the soil of Iraq in our first two deployments," White said. "So let us pay tribute today to these heroes who gave their full and final measure."

Along with White's speech, the Star Spangled

Banner was sung by Capt. Christina Fanitzi, a native of Buffalo, N.Y., and attendees held a moment of silence. The ceremony came to a conclusion with a silent roll call of the Iron Brigade's fallen Soldiers, a 21-gun salute and the playing of Taps.

The 2nd BCT, 1st Armored Division, has been deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom since April 2008 in the Mada'in Qada in southeastern Baghdad Province.

Iraqi leaders, 2nd BCT talk security

By Pfc. Evan Loyd

2nd Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs Office

Leaders from the Iraqi Army, National Police and Iraqi Police met May 21 with Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, to discuss security measures for an upcoming voter registration in the Mada'in Qada, in southeastern Baghdad Province.

Brig. Gen. Adnan, local IP commander, said he plans to hire new recruits to strengthen their forces.

"This will allow the Iraqi Police to set up more checkpoints and operations in the area," Adnan said. "With more police comes more security during the upcoming voter registration."

Col. Pat White, 2nd BCT commander, from Apple Valley, Calif., listened to the plans and concerns of the Iraqi forces. He agreed coalition forces working with Iraqi Security Forces would help provide a safe and secure environment for Iraqis registering to vote.

"Our role is to support and assist the Iraqi forces," said White.

The 2nd BCT, 1st Armored Division, from Baumholder has been deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom since April.

Red Cross provides support to WTUs

The American Red Cross is making sure that Baumholder's wounded warriors are kept busy when they are not attending to their medical needs.

The Military Hospital Outreach Program is a new initiative the American Red Cross has undertaken. "The purpose of this initiative is to provide support to ill or injured service members and their immediate family," said Michael Patton, Red Cross station manager.

"I look forward to supporting the folks in the Warrior Transition Unit in any way we can. This is another way that the American Red Cross provides service to our Armed Forces," said Patton.

As part of this support, the American Red Cross has purchased and distributed household items and sport supplies for ill or injured service members.

Local Red Cross volunteers Christi Yarbrough and Judy Tarantino coordinated with Warrior Transition Unit officials and other community agencies to determine the needs of the Soldiers assigned to Baumholder's Warrior Transition Unit. Staff Sgt. Shawn Ertl, cadre for the Baumholder WTU, along with other members of the WTU, assisted to create a list of needed items to make life a little more comfortable for the WTU members.

Some of the items purchased by the American Red Cross included dishes, pots and pans, glasses and other kitchen items. On the recreational side, board games, table tennis supplies, a volleyball set, horse-shoe set, badminton set, darts and puzzles will ensure the WTU members have something to keep them busy.



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Strassburg holds organization day

Lt. Col. Thomas Matsel, 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery commander, attaches a streamer to the guidon of Headquarters Battery in recognition of winning the commander's trophy during the unit's final organization day at Strassburg Kaserne. The unit will leave Baumholder this summer and will relocate at Fort Lewis, Wash. Families and Soldiers enjoyed a day of sports and food that included spareribs, chicken, hamburgers, bratwurst, knockwurst and fried catfish. Sporting events included deep steel ball, basketball, softball and tug-of-war.

Combined Endeavor: Making the connection

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava
*U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder
Public Affairs Office*

For most Baumholder residents, their only involvement with Combined Endeavor was when they ran into Soldiers dressed in different uniforms at the Post Exchange or Sound Center. But for the Soldiers of the more than 40 nations who participated in Combined Endeavor, it was a chance to enhance communication skills.

"Combined Endeavor is a communications interoperability exercise sponsored by the U.S. European Command, held in the spirit of partnership for peace, with 40 some participating nations. We practice communications interoperability here," said U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Nancy Harrity, public affairs officer for Combined Endeavor.

Combined Endeavor operations were not physically located on Smith Barracks, but rather in neighboring Camp Aulendorf, where an area the size of a parade field was transformed into a sea of military-green tents filled with electronic and communications equipment. Outside the tents, a web of cables covered the ground, antennas jutted skyward and satellite dishes were everywhere.

Harrity brought the exercise into perspective by saying, "This is our

range. Where tanks go out to the training range and practice putting ordnance on target, this is where we do that. We don't have a physical range per say, but each year for the past 10 years we've set up here at Lager Aulendorf and practiced interoperability."

This is the last year that Combined Endeavor will be held at Lager Aulendorf.

The exercise's changing needs and requirements have forced it to relocate elsewhere. Next year the communications interoperability exercise will be held in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Harrity emphasized that Combined Endeavor is all about working together with other nations and ensuring that if it ever became necessary for the various nations to communicate with one another, for whatever reason, that effort would be a seamless one.

"Everybody is working with the folks from other nations to make sure that everything works together. In today's world we don't operate alone. We always operate with partners, be it the U.S. or any of the other nations that participate here in Combined Endeavor," said Harrity.

"This gives us an opportunity to practice what we know about communications and interoperability and make sure things work together. And if they



Photo by Stacy Theresa Graham

Combined Endeavor Soldiers work together in the radio room.

don't, to find a creative solution to make it work," said Harrity.

In addition to the basic communications interoperability Combined Endeavor works on bigger problems such as a common operating picture, which relates back to interoperability.

"For the war fighters, they need to see what's going on out on the battlefield, and it's tough when you have every entities' operating picture on a different screen. You have to do a lot of

mental work to put that together.

"Here at Combined Endeavor they are working that problem to bring it all together into one screen, regardless of the system that it starts out on. It's a complex problem, but fortunately we have a lot of really, really smart people—the best and brightest from each nation, here, participating, working together to find solutions to problems like this to help the war fighter and save lives," said Harrity.

Armored division makes long haul for OIF



By Pfc. Michael Schuch
*2nd Brigade Combat Team
Public Affairs Office*

Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, deployed to Iraq from Baumholder over the past month in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

This is the unit's third OIF deployment. Soldiers endured two blizzards in Germany before departing on the 2,200-mile trip to Iraq.

The trip took the Soldiers through several stops on their way to Forward Operating Base Hammer, including Ramstein; Camp Buehring, Kuwait; and Baghdad.

The 2nd BCT spent three weeks in Camp Buehring conducting reception, staging and onward integration operations.

During this time, they completed training courses, readiness drills, vehicle and

weapons ranges and ensured their equipment and vehicles were ready for combat.

"Because of the changes we had to go through, the trip from Germany was an unforgettable experience," said Spc. Rodrigo Garcia, from San Diego, Calif. "It is something that you and your buddies will always be able to share."

"A trip from Germany to Iraq to do our part for Operation Iraqi Freedom is the trip of a lifetime," said Garcia, a Soldier in Headquarters and Headquarters Company. "You can only really understand the experience by actually doing it yourself."

Once Soldiers from the 2nd BCT arrived at FOB Hammer, they participated in training with Soldiers from the previous unit, the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division. This gave 2nd BCT Soldiers the chance to see what their responsibilities would be during their deployment before assuming their positions.

"There were no real issues with the transition. Compared to previous deployments, it went very smoothly and well," said Sgt. Maj. James Zadra, from Landisburg, Pa.

1st Lt. Robert Jones, from Dillsburg, Pa., boards a plane at Ramstein Air Base taking him from Germany to Kuwait April 6.

Photo by Pfc. Michael Schuch



Photo by Ignacio "Igg" Rubalcava
German Red Cross members place a victim on a gurney during the annual force protection and disaster response exercise in Baumholder.

Community verifies its disaster response actions

By Ignacio "Igg" Rubalcava
U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder Public Affairs Office

May 17, all is seemingly quiet in Baumholder. Without warning, shortly before 9 a.m. the early morning silence is shattered.

An explosion near the Warrior Processing Center leaves a vehicle in flames and dozens of reintegrating Soldiers and family members injured.

Smoke pours out of the Warrior Processing Center and the front of the building is littered with 40 to 50 injured or dead family members and Soldiers.

Firefighters respond almost immediately and extinguish the blaze. Medical responders arrive simultaneously on the scene and begin treating the injured for everything from shock, smoke inhalation and burns, to more severe injuries. Those who can walk are escorted to safety while the more severe are treated on the spot and evacuated to a staging area for further treatment.

Right behind the U.S. medical responders are members of the German Red Cross, the German Fire Department and German Polizei. Everyone pitches in to help evacuate the injured, control the blaze and to secure the site.

The fire is easily extin-

guished and the only thing remaining of the vehicle is a charred smoldering shell. Fuel tanks near the facility are then sprayed with water to keep them cool and prevent any further explosions.

At this point everyone's attention turns to helping the injured. German Red Cross members and U.S. clinic technicians and doctors work side by side to stabilize and treat the injured.

Fortunately, this entire scenario was only an exercise, organized by the U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder to test its response capabilities in case its personnel would ever need to respond to such a catastrophic incident.

Laney Rich, force protection officer, said he was pleased with the overall results of the exercise and the extensive cooperation of the German emergency response agencies that participated.

"The exercise was extremely successful. We were able to fully validate our mutual support agreements between the U.S. and host nation first responder agencies, as well as our garrison mass casualty response plans," said Rich.

The German emergency response agencies reacted in force. Various medical and fire departments quickly arrived on the scene to help contain the fire and treat the injured.

"We had excellent participation by the German Red Cross, Quick Medical Reaction Force, the Birkenfeld County Crisis Management Team Leader, Volunteer Fire Departments from Berschweiler, Fohren-Linden, Herrstein and Baumholder, the Bundeswehr Fire Department and the Polizei," said Rich.

Working together with German emergency response agencies on a regular basis is essential in maintaining a high level of proficiency when it comes to providing emergency services to Baumholder residents, both German and American.

"The U.S. emergency response capability would be quickly overwhelmed by any event causing mass casualties. We rely to a great extent on the capabilities and expertise of the host nation first responders for these potential situations, and it is vitally important that we exercise together on a regular basis," he said.

Rich credits the success of the exercise to the extensive participation by the German emergency response agencies.

"I cannot emphasize enough the outstanding relationship, both professionally and on a personal level, that we have with our host nation emergency response agencies. Exercises such as this help us enhance our partnerships, and we all reap the benefits of them," said Rich.



A vehicle bursts into flames near the Warrior Processing Center, kicking off the annual U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder's force protection and disaster response exercise.



With the fire extinguished, U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder firemen begin clean up and recovery actions at the explosion site.



Photo by Rosemarie Rubalcava
A medical technician tends to the injuries of a victim.



Photo by Rosemarie Rubalcava
A severely injured person is cared for by a medical technician.

Photo by Rosemarie Rubalcava



Photo by Ignacio "Igg" Rubalcava
A medical technician provides oxygen to a victim while German Red Cross members assist others.

Photo by Ignacio "Igg" Rubalcava

Historic flagpole on way to California

Cold War relic to rejoin 11th ACR at Fort Irwin

Story and photos by
Ute Wolf

U.S. Army Garrison Hessen Public
Affairs Office

A historic Cold War relic that found a temporary home on Hanau's Pioneer Kaserne is being shipped to Fort Irwin, Calif. There it will be re-erected and await the return of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment from Iraq.

The 104-foot flagpole was placed in front of the 11th ACR's headquarters on Downs Barracks in Fulda shortly before the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. For five years the pole stood alongside U.S. Soldiers keeping watch over the Fulda Gap. It was left behind on the deserted post when the 11th ACR departed Fulda in 1994 for Fort Irwin.

Eight years ago Staff Sgt. Ken Young



Staff Sgt. Ken Young looks on as workers dismantle the flagpole on Pioneer Kaserne in preparation for shipment to rejoin the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in California.

was looking for a flagpole for his unit, the 130th Engineer Brigade on Pioneer Kaserne. "A former Fulda employee told me that there was a real nice one in front of Downs Barracks," Young said. The bridge engineer, who is now with 502nd Engineer Company, arranged for the gigantic pole to be moved to Hanau and devised a plan how to erect the 13,870-pound mast on Pioneer Kaserne.

"We sanded and painted it and had hired an architect to work out plans for the founda-

tion. We used 300,000 pounds of concrete and 2,000 pounds of steel to plant that pole into the earth," said Young.

Cold War relic

With the military community in Hanau closing in September, a new site was sought for the Cold War relic.

Hanau Army officials long pondered what to do with the heavy item. Considerations ranged from selling it as scrap metal to turning it over to another U.S. installation in Germany such as Grafenwöhr or even sending it out to the 130th Engineer Brigade, which is currently based in Hawaii.

"I finally got in touch with the 11th ACR in Fort Irwin via email and asked whether they wouldn't like to have the pole," said Bob Schloesser, deputy to



Old Glory flies atop the 104-foot flag pole on Pioneer Kaserne.

the commander, who is overseeing the closing down of the Hanau Community. "I told them that I think it would be really great to celebrate their 'Welcome Home Ceremony' by that historic flagpole, when the unit returns from deployment. The rear-d (rear detachment commander) and the XO (executive officer) were really excited about it."

On May 14 two huge cranes and a work crew appeared at Pioneer Kaserne and started taking the flagpole down. Young, responsible for setting it up eight years ago, oversaw its dismantling. "I put a lot of work into this," he said, looking up at the tall pole. "It's kind of sad to see it go."

Rejoining 11th ACR

But Young said he is happy about the pole being sent to the 11th ACR in California. "It was theirs to begin with and I think they should have it," he said.

Will he go and visit it some day? "Oh no," he said, "I am trying to stay out of Fort Irwin if possible."



A plaque details the history of the flagpole.

Hanau stalwarts recognized

U.S. Army Garrison Hessen held one of the final award ceremonies for the Hanau Community May 16 at Pioneer Kaserne. Sixty-five men and women were honored for their services to the U.S. Army.

Dr. Bob Schloesser, deputy to the commander, praised the awardees and their accomplishments.

"This is a special day in that we are here to recognize USAG Hessen employees who have served this community in special ways, exceeding normal expectations," Schloesser said. "Your service to our Soldiers, civilians and family members is what makes Hanau a special community, recognized across the Army as a great place to be stationed.

"Sadly, today marks the last awards ceremony to be held in Hanau as we prepare to close the community," he said. "I hope you take pride in the great job you have done over the years, serving our customers. I certainly am proud of every one of you and feel very fortunate to have had the honor of serving here with you. Thank you for being part of the Hanau team."

Awardees received military awards, such as the Army Commendation Medal and Commander's Awards for Civilian Service, as well as certificates, medals of achievement and certificates of appreciation.



Dr. Robert Schloesser and Command Sgt. Maj. Jose Fontanez recognize Jenny Sposato, Marie DeLopez and other Soldiers and civilians during an awards ceremony on Pioneer Kaserne May 16.

Hanau Community

Community notes . . . Community notes

Distribution moves

The Distribution Center is now located in Room 204, Building 1 on Pioneer Kaserne. It is no longer located in Building 1202 on Yorkhof Kaserne.

Customs Office to close

The Hanau Customs Office will close July 15. After that date patrons are advised to contact the Wiesbaden Customs Office for information and guidance pertaining to Customs-related matters. The Wiesbaden Customs Office is located in Building 1038, Room 201. Call mil 337-5188 or civ (0611) 705-5188 for more information.

U.S. visa information

If you are a foreign-born spouse of a U.S. citizen you will need a visa to travel to the United States. The process can take several months. Visit the U.S. Army Garrison Hessen website at www.usaghessen.eur.army.mil and click on "U.S. Consulate visa information" for forms and more information.

Installation Access Pass Office changes

The Installation Access Pass Office will be open from 9-11 a.m. and noon to 3 p.m. Monday to Friday through June 13 for issuance and registration of installation access passes. From June 16-29 the office will be open from 9-11 a.m. and noon to 3 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday for registration only of De-

partment of Defense ID cards in the IACS system. Those seeking renewal of their installation passes or issue of one after June 13 are requested to coordinate with the Wiesbaden IACS office at mil 337-7259 or civ (0611) 705-7259. The Hanau office will close permanently June 29.

Retiree Medical Transition Day

The Hanau Health Clinic holds a Retiree Medical Transition Day June 17 from 1-4 p.m. The clinic invites retirees, retiree family members and pay patients to come in and pick up medical records, prescriptions and get with Tricare for re-enrollment to a new health clinic. For more information call the Tricare Service Center at mil 328-6686 or civ (06181) 500-6686.

Personnel outprocessing changed

Personnel outprocessing from the U.S. Army Garrison Hessen Security Office is now being conducted at the USAG Wiesbaden Security Office. Supervisors must contact Robert Kentner at mil 337-6456, robert.kentner@eur.army.mil or Derek Pollett at mil 337-7281, derek.pollett@eur.army.mil to request outprocessing of personnel.

Vehicle Registration to close

Hanau's Vehicle Registration Office will close and transfer functions to Wiesbaden June 20. Vehicle Registration is located in Building 7513 in Mainz-

Kastel Housing. Call mil 334-2470 for details.

Personnel office moves

The Hanau Civilian Personnel Advisory Center has moved from Yorkhof Kaserne to Pioneer Kaserne's Building 12 (second floor). New phone numbers are Hella Moeller 322-8948, Christine Schoenberger 322-8948, Marcus Moritz 322-9411, Monika Jedlicsek 322-8614 and Alwin Beiten 322-1430.

Public Affairs has new home

The Hanau Community Public Affairs Office has moved to Pioneer Kaserne's Building 1, Rooms 213 and 214. Send publicity requests to paofeedback@eur.army.mil. New telephone numbers are Wolfgang Niebling 322-1600, Heidi Hoess 322-8549 and Ute Wolf 322-8551.

Hanau Health Clinic update

With the Hanau Health Clinic scheduled to close July 15 and some services to end even sooner, patrons are encouraged to visit the Tricare Office to change their DEERS enrollment to the nearest health clinic and to pick up their medical records to be taken to the new clinic (if not the records will be retired and archived to St. Louis). The nearest clinics to Hanau are the Wiesbaden Health Clinic (call mil 337-6320 for information) or Heidelberg (call mil 371-2622 for assistance).

Academic excellence

Hanau welcomes new NJHS, NHS members

Story and photo by
Oren Eddie

Special to the Herald Union

Eight students from Hanau Middle High School were inducted as new members of the National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society in a ceremony at the school's Information Center May 8.

Members were selected by the chapter's Faculty Council for meeting high standards of scholarship, service, leadership and character.

Ashley Destefani and Vanessa Whatley were inducted into the NHS, for grades 10-12. They join the current members of the NHS — Kathlene Ayala, Christopher Brown, Otinetta Eddie and Roberautrice Eddie.

Students inducted into the NJHS, which recognizes academic excellence in grades seven to nine, were Janice Ayala, Janet Boateng, Roderick Gacuma, Jasmine Hawkins, John Shelton and Alicia Weaver. They join current members of NJHS — Ayla Blad, Tatjana Gainey and Devin Rafferty.



Old and new National Junior and National Honor Society members pose for a photo during the ceremony.

"These are some of the best students in our school," said speaker Samuel Cassou. "We expect great things from them."

Cassou asked the students to "continue to work hard. Hard work does have great rewards, but success is not always in-

stant."

The National Honor Society ranks as one of the oldest and most prestigious national organizations for high school students. Chapters exist in more than 15,000 schools and, since 1921, millions of students have

been selected for membership. This national student recognition organization is sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

This ceremony is one of the last for the Hanau Middle High School. It brings closure to an

outstanding program where students have consistently served others, officials said.

This year the chapter's service project was helping during a military blood drive and volunteering at the Child Development Center.



Herald Union file photos

Parents serving in Iraq and Afghanistan will be able to view their children's graduation thanks to live webcasts.

Deployed parents can watch graduations live

Deployed service members will be able to view their high school graduating seniors crossing the stage and moving their tassels from right to left via live webcasts on graduation day.

The Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe, U.S. Army Europe and the U.S. Army 5th Signal Command have combined assets, talents and technologies to enable the live webcasts via the Internet. The effort will allow at least 18 graduation ceremonies to be viewed by an estimated 211 deployed parents in Iraq, Afghanistan and other locations around the world.

The first graduation ceremony will be webcast on June 5 at 4 p.m. Ten graduation ceremonies will take place simultaneously on June 6. The last ceremony will be webcast on the evening of June 13. Schools identified as having students with deployed parents are: June 5 — Hanau and Bamberg; June 6 — Naples, Heidelberg, Hohenfels, Kaiserslautern, Ansbach, Baumholder, Ramstein, Vilsek, Lakenheath and Aviano; June 7 — Mannheim and Rota; June 8 —



This is the fifth year deployed parents will be able to view DoDDS-Europe graduation ceremonies.

Patch High School in Stuttgart, Wiesbaden and Vicenza High Schools; and June 13 — AFNORTH.

Using web technology, deployed parents will be able to see their graduating senior cross the stage and view student messages recorded for the occasion. The collective effort is intended to give graduating students and deployed parents the opportunity to share in this life event.

This is the fifth year the effort has been undertaken. Diana Ohman, director of DoDDS-Europe, who has been very involved with each of the yearly webcasts, says that although it is a monumental technical challenge, these webcasts are emotionally significant to the student and the deployed parent.

"There is no room for error. It is too important," she said. "It is important to the graduating senior that he or she be able to share the event with their parents, as well as for the deployed parent to be able to view their son or daughter crossing the stage."

Planning for this year's webcast began in January. Seniors who had, or anticipated having parents deployed at graduation, were identified through the high schools and the immense coordination process began.

For more information contact Margret N. Menzies at civ (0611)380-7612 or mil 338-7612.

School bits

Sports physicals

School and Child and Youth Services sports physicals will be conducted June 26 at the Wiesbaden Health Clinic. Twenty-minute appointments will be available from 8:30-11:30 a.m. (no walk-ins). These are not well-child exams for babies and paperwork must be completed before the appointment. Pick up documents at CYS. Bring military/civilian ID and immunization records. Also bring an asthma care plan for children who are asthmatic. Call civ (0611)705-6320/6339 to make an appointment.

Dexheim closing ceremony

Dexheim Elementary School holds a closing ceremony at 1:30 p.m. June 6.

Alumni needed

Alumni from various colleges and universities are sought to represent their schools at the annual Kaiserslautern College and University Information Night Oct. 16. To volunteer contact Larry Zani at larry_zani@compuserve.com.

Argonner activities

Argonner Elementary School holds a closing ceremony June 6 at 10 a.m. Everyone is welcome to attend including former students and teachers. Students will enjoy a field day after lunch. Student records will be available for pick-up after school on June 6 and June 9-13. Call Rick Phillips at civ (06181)906980 or 88-8374 for more information.

Baumholder Middle High School news

Baumholder Middle High School holds graduation June 6. The last day of school is June 12 (half day—release at 11 a.m.). June 13 is a teacher work day.

Hainerberg update

The last day of classes at Hainerberg Elementary

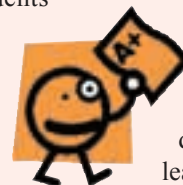
School is June 12. Last day of school for teachers is June 13. Show your school spirit; wear spirit wear. The school spirit wear store is open Wednesdays at 2:30 p.m. (outside the Media Center).

Get vaccinated if headed to college

When high school students receive their acceptances to college they should also receive something else — a vaccination. The potentially threatening bacteria called *Neisseria meningitis* commonly infects military personnel living in barracks and college students living in dormitories. Vaccination is a proven way to reduce the risk of infection. Meningococcal vaccine is recommended for adolescents entering middle school or high school, anyone without a spleen, children and adults who lack "complement proteins," people exposed to someone infected with meningitis types A, C, Y or W-135 and children and adults traveling to sub-Saharan Africa between December and June. Contact your local medical treatment facility for more information. (*Europe Regional Medical Command Public Affairs release*)

'Making the grade'

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service offers a variety of complimentary exchange offers for students who maintain at least a B average. Students are eligible for exchange booklets valid for free meals, movie tickets and a magazine, and entry into a savings bond drawing. Eligible students need only present a valid military ID card and proof of an overall "B" average or better to their local Post Exchange. Students may receive one coupon package for every qualifying report card, but may only enter the savings bond drawing once per calendar quarter. (*AAFES Corporate Communications*)





Spc. Joann Usyk, Spc Shirley Dirden and Pfc. Casey Long perform "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy."

Soldiers Show wows Wiesbaden

After stop in Baumholder earlier on tour

**Story and photos by
Chrystal Smith**

*U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden
Public Affairs Office*

The sounds of Alicia Keys, OneRepublic, AC/DC and Lee Greenwood resounded from the Taunus Theater May 31 as a cast of Soldier performers entertained service members and their families.

The 2008 U.S. Army Soldier Show themed, "For the Soldier, by the Soldier," stopped in Wiesbaden to give the community a look at the talent the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command is using to boost spirits of Army community residents worldwide.

"It was enjoyable. It was a very nice evening," said Shannon Ballard, 212th Military Police Company spouse who said the show was an effective distraction from the thoughts of her loved one downrange.

With the cast and crew coming from all corners of the Army, Wiesbaden had the pleasure of seeing a former resident among the performers — Spc. Yovonnie Mills (Thomas).

"It was nice having fans; seeing people I haven't seen in a while, showing support," said Mills who was assigned to the 123rd Main Support Battalion, and thrilled the crowd with a performance of "Just Fine" by Mary J. Blige.

The show celebrated its 25th anniversary and paid tribute to the history of American music by look-

ing back to where it all began with trips through the '50s, '60s, '70s, '80s, '90s and the contemporary era. Performances showcased modern-day artists such as Alicia Keys, OneRepublic, Sarah Borealis, Akon, Taylor Swift and Rihanna. The audience was uplifted by Gospel/Christian selections that included Israel and New Breed, Casting Crowns and Fred Hammond. They were chilled with a spin on Michael Jackson's "Thriller." They rocked out to Back in Black by AC/DC. Their souls were stirred as they were delighted with oldies selections from artists such as the Temptations and the Four Tops. One of last year's performers even got in on the action as Staff Sgt. Anthony Saddler joined the cast onstage in a medley of encouragement. And the show came full circle with an American



Cpl. Amber Jones shakes her pompoms as the cast performs a number dressed as Army Strong cheerleaders.



Sgt. 1st Class Dendre Wright performs at the Taunus Theater.

tribute that started with "My Country 'Tis of Thee" and "God Bless the U.S.A."

Being a cast member is a worthwhile experience, according to Mills. "It's an experience of a lifetime," she said. "It's definitely something new every day."

Ballard said she is looking forward to future performances. "It was my first and definitely not my last," she said as she collected a grab bag she won from the Morale Welfare and Recreation drawing and departed the theater for the evening.

The Soldier Show will hold its last performance in Europe June 7 at Vicenza, and the tour will wrap up in Fort Belvoir, Va. Visit www.armymwr.com/portal/recreation/entertainment/armysoldiershow/itinerary.asp for other performance dates.

Things to do

Dragon boat races

Wiesbaden community members are invited to join a team to compete at the Wiesbaden Schierstein Harbor Festival July 8-9. Call Wiesbaden Outdoor Recreation at mil 337-5760 for more information.

'Peter Pan' auditions

The Theatre Unlimited holds auditions for the musical "Peter Pan" at the English Theatre Frankfurt June 14 from 10 a.m. to noon for ages 9-11 and from 12:15-2:15 for ages 12-17. Youths interested in auditioning are asked to arrive at least 20 minutes early to register and to bring a parent, an audition registration fee of €5, a photo and dance shoes. Those auditioning will be asked to recite one verse or paragraph of a poem, story or monologue of their choice; to sing one verse of a song (from a musical) and be prepared to learn a dance routine. Callbacks will be held June 22. Performances will be held at the English Theatre Feb. 28, March 1, 7 and 8, 2009. Visit www.theatre-unlimited.com for more information.

Berlin Airlift events

The city of Wiesbaden invites visitors to join in the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift as the Kurhaus is converted back into the **Eagles Club** for one night June 28. The event starts at 8 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.) and will feature various musical groups including Bill Ramsey and the Achim Kück Quartet, the Hessen Youth Jazz Orchestra, the Jackson Singers, Simon Holiday and Band, Al Copley, the Barrelhouse Jazzband and Pete York's Blue Swing Five. An exhibition focusing on people who contributed to the airlift and Wiesbaden's role as the airlift headquarters will also be featured. Admission is €15. Pick up tickets at the Tourist Information Office at Marktstrasse 6.

The U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden invites everyone to an **open house** at Wiesbaden Army Airfield June 29 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. the free open house will feature a candy drop, live musical entertainment, a chance to meet some of the Berlin Airlift veterans, helicopter rides, exhibitions and more. Visit www.wiesbaden.army.mil and click on the Berlin Airlift logo (right side of the page) for details.



Sports shorts

Mountain bike winners

Wiesbaden's Thomas Essick was the winner of the Kaiserslautern Mountain Bike Championship May 31. Essick finished the 22-kilometer race in 35:49:45. Hanau's James Sharp, a past champion, won the men's open category in a time of 37:14:71. The next event in the 11-race biking series is slated for June 14-15 in Stuttgart. *(Courtesy of the Stars and Stripes)*

Red Cross golf tourney

An American Red Cross Golf Tournament will be held June 21-22 at the Rheinblick Golf Course in Wiesbaden. Call mil 337-1760 or civ (0611) 705-1760 for more information.

DoDDS-E soccer champs

Congratulations to the Wiesbaden girls soccer team, winners of the Division II Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe Championship. Wiesbaden beat Bitburg 13-9 in the championship game. Wiesbaden players Ashley Chauvin, Amy Walls, Bri Wilson and Kelsey Wilson were named to the all-tournament team. Kudos also to the Hanau girls soccer team which claimed second-place honors to Brussels for the Division IV title. Hanau's Lisa Fontanez, Kathleen Ayala, Ashley Destafani and Nastasia Hall were named to the all-tournament team. *(Courtesy of the Stars and Stripes)*

Softball tournament

A Thunder Thump Softball Tournament will be held June 20-22 in Dexheim and Wiesbaden. There is no fee. Call mil 337-5541 or 334-5746 for details.

U.S. Army European Open

The 2008 U.S. Army European Open Golf Tournament will be held June 20-22 at the Stuttgart Golf Course in Kornwestheim. The field is limited to 120 entries with a \$40 registration fee paid in advance. It is open to all U.S. ID cardholders age 18 and older. Visit <https://public.euromwr.army.mil> for details.



Youth scholarship golf tournament

Theta Theta Lambda Chapter, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., holds a youth scholarship golf tournament at the Woodlawn Golf Course in Ramstein June 14 at 1 p.m. Admission is \$50 for non-members or \$25 for club members. Call Kenny Davis at civ (0162) 271 0939 or mil 486-6811 for more information.

Adventures and more await community youths this summer

CYS features trips, sports, music lessons and other activities

Parents need not worry about hearing complaints of "there's nothing to do this summer." Thanks to the rich variety of programs available through community Child and Youth Services centers, young people of all ages have a wealth of opportunities for summer fun ranging from School-Age Services and Youth Services trips and adventures to part-day preschool, sports, fitness and instructional classes.

Summer programs in the U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden community run from June 16 to Aug. 22.

Wiesbaden's School-Age Services programs at Wiesbaden Army Airfield and Hainerberg for first- through fifth-graders run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Dexheim participants will be bused to Wiesbaden daily.

The following Wiesbaden SAS summer programs will be featured:



CYS invites youths to go exploring this summer.

© Week 1, June 16-20—**Time Travelers and Trail Blazers.** Unravel history's mysteries during trips to Frankfurt's Historisches Museum, the Roman Saalburg Fortress and Holiday Park.

© Week 2, June 23-27—**Undersea Exploration.** Venture into or observe the watery depths at the Wiesbaden swimming pool, Darmstadt's Vivarium and Sea Life Park-Speyer.

© Week 3, June 30 to July 4—**History's Alive.** Travel to the Zeppelin Museum and Frankfurt Airport, Freudenberg and Ronneburg Castles.

© Week 4, July 7-11—**Animals Galore.** Check out animal antics at the Frankfurt Zoo, Wiesbaden Fasanerie or the Opel Zoo.

© Week 5, July 14-18—**Earth-Friendly Extravaganza.** Visit the Frankfurt Palmengarten, go swimming at the Opelbad or make like Indiana Jones at the Frankfurt Archaeological Museum.

© Week 6, July 21-25—**Amazing Invention Convention.** Solve puzzles at the Giessen Math Museum, step back into time at Hessenpark or unlock secrets at Speyer's Technik Museum.

© Week 7, July 28 to Aug. 1—**Sports Hero Spectacular.** Visits to Tombolino, to play mini golf and to Abenteuerland

Taunusstein are on tap.

© Week 8, Aug. 4-8—**Invitation to World Celebration.** Trips include Taunus Wunderland, Leos Spielpark and the Museum of Communication.

© Week 9, Aug. 11-15—**Bugapalooza Bash.** Get a bug's eye view at the Frankfurt Senckenheim Museum, Kleinfeldchen Pool and Mannheim's Luisenpark.

© Week 10, Aug. 18-22—**Transition Week.** Bop till you drop at the Lochmühle, tombolino or at a movie.

Wiesbaden's Hainerberg YS, which is open Monday to Friday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., will feature the following summer program for children in grades six to 12:

© Week 1, June 16-20—swimming, fishing, Tech Museum, skating, go-karting

© Week 2, June 23-27—swimming, minigolf, Rhein Castle tour, bowling/golf and a ropes course.

© Week 3, June 30 to July 3—swimming, fishing, Heidelberg city tour, skating.

© Week 4, July 7-11—swimming, minigolf, Rhein Castle tour, Tech Museum, canoeing.

© Week 5, July 14-18—swimming, fishing, Hessenpark, skating, go-karting.

© Week 6, July 21-25—swimming, minigolf, airport shopping, bowling/golf and biking.

© Week 7, July 28 to Aug. 1—swimming, fishing, Rhein Castle tour, skating, go-karting.

© Week 8, Aug. 4-8—swimming, minigolf, clown school, bowling/golf, climbing.

© Week 9, Aug. 11-15—swimming, fishing, clown school, skating, go-karting.

© Week 10, Aug. 18-22—swimming, minigolf, clown school, bowling/golf, boating.

A weeklong **Adventure Camp** in Berchtesgaden will be featured July 14-18. Various **Saturday trips** will also be featured including trips to Europa Park June 14, Luxembourg/Metz June 21, Movie Park June 28, Phantasialand July 12, Cologne July 19, Holiday Park July 26, Stuttgart Aug. 2, Strasbourg Aug. 9, Heidelberg Aug. 16 and Six Flags in Belgium Aug. 23.

Wiesbaden CYs also features a host of opportunities for young people to hone their athletic abilities and to get in shape. Mini-camps including basket-



Photo by Karl Weisel

Trips to the Lochmühle and other adventure parks are planned.

ball, volleyball, table tennis, baseball, flag football and soccer will be offered for ages 3 and up. Sports academies for ages 7-15 include cheerleading, flag football, soccer and basketball.

Wiesbaden's School of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration and Skills, better known as SKIES, features classes in guitar, introduction to music, piano, ballet, jazz dance, children's theater and tae kwon do.

A summer part-day preschool for children age 3-5 will be held at the Wiesbaden Army Airfield Child Development Center June 23 to Aug. 15.

Other special Wiesbaden CYs summer events include Friday night openings at the CDC June 27 and Aug. 1 from 6:30-11:30 p.m.; Saturday special openings June 21, July 12, 26, Aug. 9 and 23 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; an Olympic athletes visit June 27 and a Major League Baseball Clinic June 30 to July 1.

For more information about these programs visit the garrison home page at www.wiesbaden.army.mil and click on the "2008 CYs Summer Program" link in the lower left menu. To enroll your child visit the Central Enrollment and Registration Office in Building 1215 on Wiesbaden Army Airfield.

For information about activities in the Baumholder community keep reading the USAG Baumholder pages of the *Herald Union* or call Child and Youth Services at civ (06783) 6-7276.

Sports and leisure



Photos by Chrystal Smith

Runners take off at the start of the 800-meter finals at the DoDDS-Europe Track and Field Championship.



Megan White, Baumholder High School, makes her first jump attempt in the triple jump finals.

Setting the pace at the DoDDS-Europe Track and Field Championships

Teams from Baumholder, Hanau and Wiesbaden were well represented at the 2008 Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe Track and Field Championships in Rüsselsheim May 23-24.

The Wiesbaden girls team claimed first place in Division II, Baumholder boys were second in Division III, Hanau boys were third in Division III and Baumholder girls were second in Division III.

Wiesbaden's Kyle Murray took second in the 800 meters and first in the 3,000 meters. Baumholder's Artrell Davistied for second in the long jump.

Wiesbaden's 1,600 sprint medley relay team also took first place. *(Courtesy of the Stars and Stripes)*



Hanau's Emanuel Moore looks over his shoulder to gauge Kyle Murray's proximity during the last 50 meters of the 800-meter championship race. Murray overtook Moore to finish second overall giving Moore the third-place finish.

Things to do

USO adventures

Rhein-Main Area USOs feature the following trips: **Kassel** by train June 7, **Czech shopping** June 7, **Euro-Disney Paris** June 13, **Würzburg** by train June 14, **Rhein River cruise** June 15, **Eltville with Eric the Red** June 16, **Paris Express** June 21, **Nürnberg** by train June 21, the

Opel Zoo June 25, **Strasbourg** June 28, **Phantasialand** June 29, **Point Alpha**, July 4, **Sinsheim** July 5, **Rothenburg** July 7 and **Trier** July 12. Call mil 337-6249 or 5806 for details.

Bingen Garden Show

The town of Bingen on the Rhein River north of Mainz features the Rheinland-Pfalz Gar-

den Show through Oct. 19. A 2.8-kilometer stretch along the river features flower beds, sample gardens, exhibitions and events. For information visit www.landesgartenschau-bingen.de.

Strawberry Festival

A Strawberry Festival is scheduled to be held June 13-16

in Eltville-Erbach. Other upcoming fests include the **Kiedricher Rieslingfest** June 27-30, a **sparkling wine fest** in Eltville July 3-7, the **Hochheimer Wine Fest** July 11-14, the **Lindenfest** in Geisenheim July 11-14 and the **Bad Schwalbacher Wine Fest** July 17-21.



George Clooney (center) directs and stars in the 1920s-era football film, "Leatherheads."

At the movies June 5-19

Baumholder, Wagon Wheel

June 6 — Iron Man (PG-13) 7 p.m.
June 7 — Iron Man (PG-13) 4 p.m. Superhero (PG-13) 7 p.m.
June 8 — Iron Man (PG-13) 4 p.m. Leatherheads (PG-13) 7 p.m.
June 13 — Speed Racer (PG) 7 p.m.
June 14 — Speed Racer (PG) 4 p.m. Stop Loss (R) 7 p.m.
June 15 — Nim's Island (PG) 4 p.m. 21 (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Dexheim, Rhein

June 5 — Tyler Perry's Meet The Browns (PG-13) 7 p.m.
June 6 — Forgetting Sarah Marshall (R) 7 p.m.
June 7 — Bee Movie (PG) 4 p.m.



Jack Black and Dustin Hoffman are only a few of the many actors to lend their voices to the animated characters in "Kung Fu Panda."

Leatherheads (PG-13) 7 p.m.

June 12 — Superhero (PG-13) 7 p.m.
June 13 — Iron Man (PG-13) 7 p.m.
June 14 — 21 (PG-13) 7 p.m.
June 19 — Stop Loss (R) 7 p.m.

Hanau, Evening Star

Theater has closed permanently

Wiesbaden, Taunus

June 5 — Penelope (PG) 7 p.m.
June 6 — Leatherheads (PG-13) 7 p.m. Sex And The City (R) 9:30 p.m.
June 7 — The Spiderwick Chronicles (PG) 4 p.m. Superhero (PG-13) 7 p.m. Sex And The City (R) 9:30 p.m.
June 8 — Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears A Who! (G) 4 p.m. Sex And The City (R) 7 p.m.
June 9 — Never Back Down (PG-13) 7 p.m.
June 10 — Leatherheads (PG-13) 7 p.m.
June 11 — Superhero (PG-13) 7 p.m.
June 12 — Leatherheads (PG-13) 7 p.m.
June 13 — Kung Fu Panda (PG) 7 p.m. 21 (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.
June 14 — Kung Fu Panda (PG) 4 p.m. Nim's Island (PG) 7 p.m. Stop Loss (R) 9:30 p.m.
June 15 — Kung Fu Panda (PG) 4 p.m. 21 (PG-13) 7 p.m.
June 16 — Drillbit Taylor (PG-13) 7 p.m.
June 17 — Tyler Perry's Meet The Browns (PG-13) 7 p.m.
June 18 — Superhero (PG-13) 7 p.m.
June 19 — Stop Loss (R) 7 p.m.

Movie plots

Leatherheads (PG-13) — George Clooney and Renee Zellweger match wits in this rapid-fire romantic comedy set against the backdrop of America's pro-football league in 1925.

Sex And The City (R) — This movie version of the long-running television series features the further exploits of Carrie Bradshaw, Samantha Jones, Charlotte York and Miranda Hobbes. Stars Sarah Jessica Parker, Kim Cattrall, Kristin Davis and Cynthia Nixon.

Kung Fu Panda (PG) — Po is the biggest fan of Kung Fu around which doesn't exactly come in handy while working in his family's noodle shop. Po's dreams become reality when he joins the world of Kung Fu and studies alongside his idols, the legendary Furious Five — Tigress, Crane, Mantis, Viper and Monkey — under the leadership of their guru, Master Shifu. Jack Black, Dustin Hoffman, Jackie Chan and Angelina Jolie lend their voices to this animated cast.

Nim's Island (PG) — Anything can happen on Nim's Island, a magical place ruled by a young girl's imagination (played by Abigail Breslin). When Nim's father goes missing, a twist of fate brings her together with Alexandra (Jody Foster). Now, they must draw courage and find strength in one another to conquer Nim's Island.

Iron Man (PG-13) — Based on the Marvel comic, "Iron Man" tells the story of Tony Stark (played by Robert Downy Jr.), a driven inventor and executive who is haunted by his dark side. Strapping on billions of dollars worth of state-of-the-art armor and weaponry each night to fight crime, terrorism and corporate espionage, Tony begins to crack under the strain of his fractured lifestyle. Also stars Terrence Howard, Gwyneth Paltrow and Jeff Bridges.

Drillbit Taylor (PG-13) — After being harassed by a school bully, two teenagers hire a soldier of fortune (Owen Wilson) as a bodyguard, only to find out that he has his own agenda.

21 (PG-13) — Six M.I.T. students take Las Vegas for millions by counting cards. Stars Kevin Spacey, Laurence Fishburne and Kate Bosworth.

Tyler Perry's Meet The Browns (PG-13) — In this story about love and family, Angela Bassett plays Brenda, a single mother living in inner-city Chicago who takes her family to Georgia for the funeral of her father, whom she never met. There, she is introduced to the Browns, her father's fun-loving, crass Southern clan. Brenda also finds romance along the way.

Indiana Jones And The Kingdom Of The Crystal Skull (PG-13) — Harrison Ford is back in the latest installment of the Indiana Jones saga — once again racing to find treasure before the baddies (in this case Cate Blanchett).

Spiderwick Chronicles (PG) — When the three Grace children — Jared, Simon and Mallory — move to the ancient Spiderwick mansion, they are at first none-too-enchanted by the rundown Victorian ... until they discover an enchanted creature living in the walls.

Movies and times subject to change by local theaters. For the most up-to-date schedule visit the garrison's website (see address below).

Touring Europe on four legs

By Marion Rhodes, Contributing writer



Courtesy photo

They may be man's best friends, but when it comes to travel, dogs are often seen as more of a burden than a buddy.

Instead of accompanying their masters to faraway places, they habitually spend their vacations at a boarding kennel or with a dog sitter. But you don't have to leave your pet behind to explore Europe. Look around and you are likely to find dogs in restaurants, on trains, on the beach. Most countries here are very dog friendly, and taking furry friends along may actually be easier than trying to find a place for them to stay behind.

Yvonne Schultmeier runs a travel agency that specializes in vacationing with dogs, called "Hunde im Urlaub" (dogs on vacation). She finds hotels and vacation homes that allow pets, as well as organized trips for dog owners that feature specials such as dog hiking tours or integrated pet sitting services during cultural explorations where dogs may not be allowed. Schultmeier and her own two dogs have traveled to many European countries

to test the places she recommends. Their experiences have mostly been positive.

Denmark, Norway and Sweden are exceptionally dog friendly, she said. Finding accommodations that allow dogs is easy, and dogs

generally are allowed to roam on the beaches. "Taking your dog for a several-hour walk along the water is no problem here," she said. Germany usually restricts its beaches during the main travel season in July and August. During that time, dog owners are asked to seek out specially designated beaches where their pets may roam and play.

Eastern Europe is also rather dog friendly, but a different attitude toward the animals as primarily working and guard dogs there may rub some westerners the wrong way, Schultmeier said.

Tuscany and Croatia are also good destinations for traveling with dogs, she added.

In southern Europe, dog owners may have more difficulty finding dog friendly hotels, and beaches often forbid dogs in the water or do not permit them at all. Unlike in the northern countries, restaurants in the south usually limit dogs to outside patios, if they tolerate them at all.

A tricky country is the Netherlands, Schultmeier said. Although the people there are very friendly toward dogs, the law is not. "The Dutch confiscate anything that even resembles a fighting dog," she said.

Although this designation usually applies only to breeds such as pit bulls and Staffordshire Terriers, Schultmeier cautioned that any dog that is muscular or has a wide head, even a Rottweiler or Labrador, may be in danger.

People should only take those dogs along if they have papers from the European FCI, the equivalent of the American Kennel Club. When booking a hotel, travelers need to announce their intention to bring along a dog in advance, even if the

hotel says it allows dogs. If the hotel's Web site doesn't state whether dogs are allowed, people should call and ask before making a reservation.

For any travel abroad, dogs need to have a microchip implant. That chip needs to adhere to the European standard, otherwise the owner needs to take along a proper chip scanner.

Dogs also have to have a current rabies vaccination that needs to be noted in an EU pet passport, which is available at any German vet. Although rabies is the only required vaccine for entering a European country, there may be other suggested vaccines to protect pets from foreign viruses, so it is worth checking with a veterinarian beforehand. For more information on entrance requirements, such as antibody tests to avoid quarantine in the United Kingdom or Sweden, visit the portal site of the European Union at

<http://europa.eu>.

When traveling, Schultmeier advises taking the car over other means. "I wouldn't recommend train trips or plane rides for dogs," she said.

Not only do those carriers usually impose additional restrictions, but they can also put extra stress on the dog.

Germany's law requires dogs in cars to be secured in either a kennel or with a seatbelt or safety net. If a dog gets car sick, withholding food before the trip may help, Schultmeier said.

Plan on making a stop at least every three hours and give the dog plenty of water. Older or sick dogs should be checked by a vet before going on any trip.

Generally, however, Schultmeier said people need to remember one thing:

"For most dogs, staying at a kennel is more stressful than a four or five hour car ride."

Plan on making a stop at least every three hours and give the dog plenty of water.

At home in two languages

By Marion Rhodes, Contributing writer

When Nadine Hughes takes her two toddlers on base, they sound like any other American family. Off base, it's a different story. "Nos" turn into "Neins," "Don't touch" changes to "Finger weg," "brother and sister" become "Bruder und Schwester."



Courtesy photo.

The Hughes are raising their children bilingually. Nadine Hughes, a native of Bitburg, is teaching them German while her husband, Michael, an American in the U.S. Air Force, is teaching them English.

Generally, the Hughes follow an approach known as "One person, one language," or OPOL: each parent speaks his or her native tongue exclusively, in all situations and locations.

But with her husband on a year-long tour in Korea and most of their daily life occurring in German surroundings, Mrs. Hughes, who lives near Spangdahlem Air Base, had to make some adjustments to ensure their children's English wouldn't suffer from his absence.

Military families face some challenges in addition to those usually encountered by parents with bilingual intentions for their children. When one parent misses much of a child's early years because of deployments or TDYs and families are moving between countries, finding the right approach for a bilingual education can be a challenge.

"We do an 'English time' now during dinner or before bed," Mrs. Hughes said. During that time, she speaks English to her daughter, 19-month-old Myra, and son, 3-year-old Patrick. She also talks English to the children when they are on base or around non-German-speakers.

There are different opinions about this type of environmental bilingualism. Advocates of "one parent, one language" claim OPOL is the only way to avoid confusion in children, but families who successfully tried other methods say that as long as the approach is consistent, children are able to figure out what to speak, when and to whom.

Rudolf Fischer, a German linguist, is a defender of OPOL.

He used this approach with his three children, who into their 30s speak their mother's and father's languages fluently and discriminately.

"Children associate language with a person, so I would discourage any other way," Fischer said. German natives Sabine and Gregor Voigt, who live in Boston, disagree.

"Personally, I find it a bit rude to speak in a different language among people who don't understand it if it would be easy for me to switch to a commonly understood language," Mrs. Voigt said.

For the most part, the Voigts speak German with their children, 6-year-old Stella and 3-year-old Yannik. But when they have English-speaking company or are interacting with English-only speakers outside the house, they switch to English.

While Yannik still mixes languages quite often, his sister is a perfect bilingual.

"She very quickly started to speak full sentences in both languages and interestingly never mixed the languages in a single sentence," their mother said. "Also, from very early on, she knew with whom to speak what language."

In the book "The Bilingual Family: A Handbook for Parents," which explores several different approaches to multilingual upbringing, authors Edith Harding-Esch and Philip Riley conclude that there are probably as many methods to raising children bilingually as there are families.

"There are many different ways of being consistent," they write. "One

parent, one language; a holiday language and a round-the-year language; a weekday language and a Sunday language; the first one to speak chooses the language; everyone speaking their preferred language."

Once parents settle on an approach, they should remain flexible and willing to rework it if the child seems uncomfortable with the arrangement, the authors advise. Bilingualism should never become a cause for misery in the child. Fischer agrees.

"Don't correct your children, don't punish them and don't force them to talk in your language," he said.

"It's important to keep a good relationship to the language — and the person who speaks it."

If practiced right, bilingualism has been proven not to interfere with children's academic performance.

Alicia Estrada, who teaches bilingual children at an elementary school in San Bernardino, Calif., sees this on a daily basis.

"Bilingual students are able to succeed in many academic areas, including tests," she said.

Mrs. Voigt said their daughter's latest assessment actually showed her ahead of her class in reading, writing and math. She considers being at home in two languages a gift for children.

"As long as you are consistent in the rules you set about speaking what language in what situations, your kids will be fine," Mrs. Voigt said. "It might take them a bit longer to figure it out."

But then, remember, there is always the child on your block who will speak full sentences at age 1. Might just not be your soon-to-be bilingual child."

Bilingualism should never become a cause for misery in the child.



Courtesy photo. Schönbrunn Palace in Vienna, Austria

New experiences appear around every turn in Vienna

Vienna, Austria has a fascinating past. It was founded in 500 B.C. as a Celtic settlement. Later, it became the home of the Holy Roman Empire and then the capital of the Austrian Empire. Today, Vienna is a beautiful, artistic, culture-rich city with so much to offer its residents and those fortunate enough to visit.

By Paige Norris-Miller, Contributing writer

Schönbrunn Palace is completely lovely. Its wide expanse stretches like a golden smile in Vienna. The impressive Austrian royal family, the Hapsburgs, made Schönbrunn Palace their imperial summer palace. It is a real treat for anyone with an interest in Marie Antoinette and her famous family to see where she lived before moving on to the decadent French palace of Versailles.

The immaculate gardens spread out behind the palace, and the oldest zoo in the world, founded in 1752, continues to delight the young and old. The city itself is vast with new experiences around every corner. There are many libraries, gardens and museums, including the Museum of Natural History, which has an especially impressive array of Bronze Age artifacts. There are lovely paths that encircle the city and provide great views of the surrounding vineyards and the city itself. The Spanish Riding

School and the world-famous Vienna Boys' Choir are must-sees.

Coffee is an art form in Vienna. There is a wide array of different ways to drink this international favorite, like adding liquor, cream, cinnamon or chocolate. Accompanying the delicious coffee is the mouth watering display of strudels, sweet pancakes and "sachertorte," which is chocolate cake with apricot jam. Sitting in any coffee house, reading or talking with friends is a way to spend a true Viennese afternoon.

Vienna is famous for many things: Mozart, Strauss, the Hapsburgs, the Danube River, waltzing and coffee. It is a wonderful Austrian city with so much to offer. Go and find out what makes it wonderful for you.

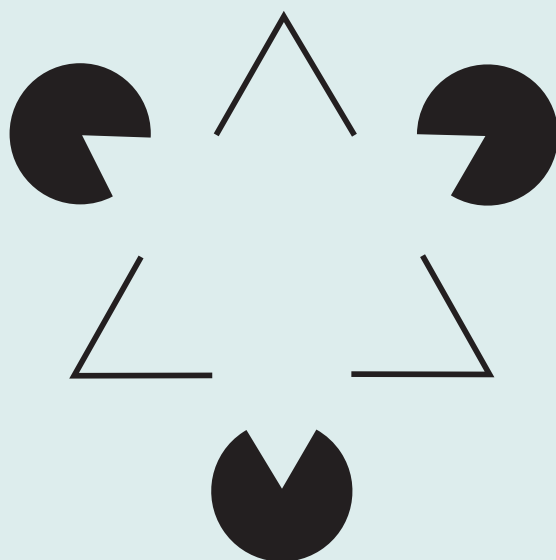
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The city itself is vast with new experiences around every corner.



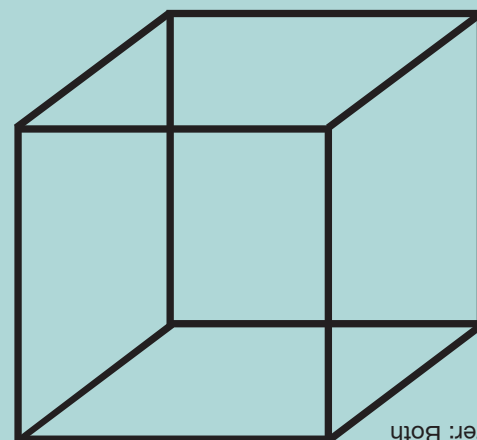
Courtesy photo. Statue of Johann Strauss

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